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THE BUDGET.

As we observed last week, the Budget of Mr. Gladstone owes its peculiar interest to its political associations. The choice given him when he had the financial year to provide for was whether he should provide for it in a handsome manner like a mere man of business or no. He might have come forward and told the country that, though it was, generally speaking, prosperous, its expenses (owing to the state of Europe) were enormous, and that the income tax must be still employed to meet them. The deficit (it once being understood that the income tax and the extra tea and sugar duties could not be meddled with) would not have been more than might easily have been managed. The country could have quite understood, without any necessity to inflammatory language, why no more could be done at present, and the Budget would have gone off like any slow, disagreeable, but necessary bit of business. Instead of this course, Ministers have adopted a daring and comprehensive one—making a treaty with France in the face of the darkest political uncertainties, and trusting to the future to make up, by a great commercial increase of some kind, for several objectionable provisions necessary to the treaty's working. Supposing, then, the treaty and budget (a political twin-star, as we may say) to pass into law, we shall, at all events, have a long period of uncertainty about its results. It will be clear enough, indeed, that the income tax is to be permanent. But we shall watch the Napoleonic policy and the "ideas" thereunto belonging with a more vivid and selfish interest than ever; for we shall have gone into partnership with the great man, and in international politics there is no "limited liability." Our iron and coal will be in demand, no doubt, for the treaties of 1815 cannot be undone without mechanical aid. But, whenever we venture on the high questions of the day, the thought that as to such we are now only commercial friends useful to his Majesty, and bent on profiting by him, will intrude itself into our minds, and into those of all our neighbours.

What effect any dynastic change in France, meanwhile, before the people had got familiarised with free trade would have on the relations of the two countries we need hardly say. Without that, however, the situation will be a queer one. The nations, armed to the teeth—like the Scotch troopers

Who carved at the meat with gloves of steel,
And drank the red wine through the helmet barred—

will be bound under certain conditions of friendly trading, in the soundness of which one of them at least (as far as its mass is concerned) does not believe. A bagman's millennium, ushered

in with a salute from Armstrong and Whitworth guns! Such is the strange phase of history on which we are entering.

Well, let us hope that everything will be for the best—that Napoleon will pause in the more formidable part of his mission—that the two countries will find themselves prospering by each other, and so come to love each other more than they do. Parliament, we do not doubt, means to accept, or has already accepted, the principle of the treaty; and ours is not a generation to go off in raptures for political independence and high views, when a temptation arises to make money instead. Suppose

Estimates. Again, too, an export duty on coal is allowable as a form of taxation according to economists, even in these days of boundless freedom of intercourse. For once, then, let us consult our own interests, and not tie up the hands of Governments in this particular point. French convenience must, of course, be consulted, we know. But the French are gaining increased supplies of vital necessities to our increased supplies of luxuries, and can surely afford to give way in the manner proposed.

Again, since increased commerce will employ increased shipping, why should we submit to differential duties our cargoes brought in English bottoms? By their maintenance the French ship will turn a penny on both sides of the Channel, and drive the English one off the sea. We know that the shallow modern trader forgets that we owe our mercantile prosperity to our naval supremacy. But even he will see the disgrace of a marine beating us in peace which could never beat us in war.

As regards the hop interest, we shall be glad if they make a good bargain for themselves, though we do not undertake the advocacy of any special interest in these columns. We do not feel despondent about any of the interests dependent on the production of beer in the long run. Cheap southern wine will be a boon to poor gentlemen, small "respectable" families, &c.; though even with them it will never supersede malt liquor. But as for *vin ordinaire* driving beer out of use among the working classes, the idea is absurd. What do our soldiers and sailors drink when stationed in countries where wine is cheap—in the Mediterranean for instance? Do they drink the native liquors? Not if they can get anything else. However, let the experiment be made. Mulled red wines in winter would be better for the poor than gin. The competition of good cheap wine with beer may force the sellers of beer to give up adulterating it. With the cry against licenses to eating-houses we have no sympathy, as our readers are already aware. Indeed, we think those licenses

among the most respectable features of the Budget. A careful perusal of the speeches at the publicans' meetings has not altered our opinion. They predict—these orators—that liquor-selling at eating-houses will encourage such establishments to become haunts of vice. But vice is amply catered for in the publicans' houses already, as a night on the town may show to any philosophical inquirer. It is, indeed, a great nuisance to many people to have to go to a publican's for refreshment whether they like it or no just now; to be obliged to lunch (if they want wine or malt) where there is nothing to eat but



SIR ROBERT PEELE, BART., M.P. FOR TAMWORTH.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)—SEE PAGE 116.

the treaty accepted cheerfully, and the Budget progressing, can we do anything to improve one or the other in their progress towards embodiment in legislation?

There can be no doubt, we think, that we should not bind ourselves indefinitely never to prohibit or never to tax the export of coal, for one thing. People hardly know what coal has become to modern Europe. In a naval war the operation of steamers would play a havoc with our merchant ships of which few dream; and that a naval war is not impossible our very proposers of the treaty openly avow by their Naval

bread and cheese, and no paper to read but the *Advertiser*. Good, nicely-furnished refreshment-houses are among the greatest wants of London, and their absence makes an important part of the contrasts between London and Paris.

Every provision of the Budget towards raising the money sacrificed by tariff changes has excited the remonstrance of some class; and though this was inevitable, and though no one, two, or three classes have any right to intrude on the general convenience, still complaints of all kinds deserve consideration, and ought to meet with it. The extension of the small stamp system is one grievance with many people. The truth is, that the loss of money is not so vexatious even as trouble or delay. The worry of a custom-house is as annoying as its charges; and the payment for stamps will scarcely be felt so much as the compulsion to put them on, especially in the case of packages. We cannot accuse Mr. Gladstone, so far, of any unwillingness to listen to remonstrance any more than of inability to reply to it; and we trust that he will do what he can for the modification of the disagreeable features of this part of his taxation. But a budget has necessarily as many hands (all reaching actively at our pockets) as a Briareus. In as far as this Budget is only a financial contrivance it is able, and comparatively inoppressive, while the abolition of the paper duty is an undoubted boon. Nor do we wish to make factious comments on its general design; but we certainly do doubt the political wisdom of what is new in that design, and we doubt whether its results will justify the enthusiasm of its thick-and-thin admirers.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is little news from Paris this week, save what our readers will find under distinctive heads. On one day at least (Tuesday) the people forget the Roman question, the Savoy question, Ministerial circulars, the commercial treaty, diplomatic correspondence, and even diplomatists themselves, in the contemplation of the *Bœuf Gras*.

A rumour ascribing to the Emperor of the French an intention of imposing an income tax is contradicted by the *Patrie*.

ITALY.

SARDINIA.

The King of Sardinia was warmly welcomed on his visit to Milan; to which city the diplomatic body has also repaired. The influx of foreigners at Milan is represented as enormous. The Sardinian Government is accelerating its military preparations.

NAPLES.

The Minister of Justice, Signor Galotti, is dead. He has been replaced by Signor Rosica.

Thirty thousand scudi have been sent to the Commissary of War, Signor Morelli, at Trieste, to continue the enlistment of Austrian volunteers for the military service of Naples.

Four ambulances were lately forwarded to the army at the frontier. A report was current that a plot against the Emperor of the French has been discovered.

ROME.

Another symptom of the resolution of the Holy See not to stoop to the French Government is the announcement, pretended to be made on good authority, that the Pope holds in readiness a *motu proprio*, signed and sealed, which realises the promises made to his subjects by the Pope in 1849, while at Gaeta. Those promises referred to the admission of laymen to all offices in the States of the Church, to the introduction of trial by jury, and to the establishment of laws protecting property and personal liberty against arbitrary administrative proceedings. It is, however, added, that before this *motu proprio* will be promulgated the Pope will demand from European States a guarantee of the patrimony of St. Peter, in the whole of its territorial extent.

Twenty-five English Catholic deputies have presented to the Pope a protest from the faithful "which," we are told, "has afforded great consolation to the Holy Father."

An attempt to get up an address among the young men at the Sapienza College in Rome led to an outbreak. The students caught one of their companions busy in collecting signatures, and administered personal chastisement. The Rector arrived, and the boys surrounded him, and would not let him go until he had produced the address, and until it was burnt on the spot. Cardinal Mattei arrived in the middle of the uproar, but was compelled to retreat; and the students ended by shouts for Italy as the Papal address was reduced to ashes. Volunteers enlisted in Austria and Bavaria continue to pour into the States of the Church. The Archduke Maximilian has sent to the Pope two thousand capotes, a battery, and some cavalry.

THE DISAFFECTED STATES.

The *Perseveranza* of Milan states that General Menabrea, having visited the new fortifications of Bologna, has announced that, with the labour of six hundred men now engaged upon them, the town will, in the course of fifty days more, become a fortress of considerable importance, and may, by further additions, become a fortress of the first order.

The Governor Farini arrived at Ferrara on Friday week, and was enthusiastically received by the inhabitants.

Letters from Venice report that the state of oppression continued there, and that the emigration of Venetians was increasing.

SAVOY.

A monster meeting was held at Geneva on February 17, which was attended by 4000 inhabitants from Chablais and Faucigny, and the northern skirts of Savoy. A declaration was adopted, setting forth the devotion of the meeting to the King of Sardinia, and their wish to remain in union with the Sardinian Monarchy. If, however, a change was inevitable, they desired to be united to Switzerland, and not to France.

AUSTRIA.

Austria has given her answer to the English propositions for the settlement of the Italian question. She cannot accept them. Count Rechberg says the proposals not only essentially alter the basis of the balance of power in Europe, which was founded by the Treaties of 1815, but are also in open opposition to the fundamental principle upon which the legitimacy of Governments in general, and especially the Austrian Monarchy, is founded. In the third instance, the said proposals destroy the rights of the Italian Princes, which were placed under the guarantee of Europe, and which the Emperor Francis Joseph has the sacred duty to protect in his quality of chief of the house of Hapsburg. If, induced by all these motives, Austria declines the proposed negotiations, she declares, nevertheless, that for the present she will not endeavour to undo by force of arms that which she cannot prevent, although reserving to herself full and entire liberty of action for the future. The tone of Count Rechberg's answer is described as exceedingly moderate and courteous.

One step more has been made towards the removal of civic disabilities from the Jews in Austria. The *Vienna Gazette* publishes an Imperial decree by which the right of buying and possessing landed property is conceded to the Jews, with the exception of those who are Polish. This exception, however, is not absolute; it has only been deemed expedient to reserve it for the decision of the future representatives of the country.

It is asserted that, in a family council of the Sovereign family, a distinct course of action concerning the introduction of a representative form of government in the Austrian States has at last been decided upon. The first step is to be an enlargement of the Privy Council, by adding

notables from the various provinces to it, to be nominated by the Emperor. This reformed body is then to pronounce on the necessity of introducing representative forms, and if it replies in the affirmative it is to draw up a complete scheme, and submit it to the Emperor.

The Austrian Government has not yet sent a reply to the English proposals for the settlement of the Italian question. It is stated that the Governments of Austria, Prussia, and Russia have arranged that their replies to the English proposal will arrive simultaneously in Paris and London.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Cabinet is said to have forwarded to Paris a proposal for the assembling of a Conference of the five great Powers. Prussia joins in this proposal.

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 13th of February says:—"The election of deputies from the nobility took place lately in the chief towns of the various governments. These elections brought together a great number of the nobility. This eagerness is explained by the importance which is attached to the question of the emancipation of the peasants—a question referred to the deputies from the nobility. The question exclusively absorbs the attention of the inhabitants, and renders them quite indifferent to foreign politics."

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Monetary affairs in Turkey appear to be improving. The collection of the house tax and the withdrawal of the paper money goes on very satisfactorily.

The Circassian emigration to the Turkish provinces of Asia Minor, which has been going on for some time, instead of exhibiting any diminution, is rather on the increase.

From Belgrade we learn that Prince Michael Obrenovich has forbidden his house to the French Consul-General, on account of his offensive conduct.

Sir Henry Rawlinson, our Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Persia, arrived at Teheran on the 21st of December. He was magnificently received.

AMERICA.

The Legislature of Mississippi has rejected a bill to repeal the state law against the introduction of Africans into the State.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States have issued a manifesto with reference to the present state of affairs in Europe, which is entirely Ultramontane in spirit. It is condemned by journals of all classes and creeds.

Two frightful accidents have occurred at New York, the one from the bursting of an old boiler, and the other from a fire in a double building, which was full of people. A few leaped from the windows and were saved, with more or less injury; but a large unascertained number perished before the eyes of the spectators. On the 10th a terrific gale of wind prevailed, causing considerable damage to the shipping, &c. Both bridges of the Jersey City ferry were demolished. The Catholic Orphan Asylum in Sixth-street was unroofed, and hundreds of other buildings in Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Hoboken were unroofed and otherwise injured.

The *Charleston Courier* reports the capture of a slaver off the coast of Guinea just as she was about to embark 600 negroes. Further particulars are reported of the seizure of the American barque *Orion*, Captain Morgan, as a slaver, by the British war-steamer *Pluto*, off the African coast. When the *Orion* was brought to St. Helena she had on board 871 negroes. Before the vessel had arrived 152 had died, which would make the total number taken on board when she left the coast of Africa 1023. The barque *Emily*, which was recently taken to New York as a slaver, had escaped and sailed for the African coast. A Washington telegram of February 10 says:—"The Committee on Commerce has been directed by the House to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting American vessels from engaging in the coolie trade."

Colonel Peck, who shot Dr. Harris at New Orleans some time ago, was discharged by grand jury.

Advices from Bogota state that a revolution had broken out in that capital. The Catholic clergy had collected all the Bibles distributed by the London Bible Society, and burnt them in the public square. The British Minister strongly protested against the proceeding, but Mr. James, the American Minister, was present, countenancing the outrage.

A fire at Valparaiso had destroyed fifty houses. Some indignation was manifested there in consequence of an attack of the British squadron on Paraguay.

INDIA.

The *Bombay Times* of January 25 gives us the following information:—

FORCES FOR CHINA.

"The force for China is now being rapidly organised, and will soon be embarking. A special corps of Irregular Cavalry is being formed from existing regiments of Irregular Horse to accompany the expedition. The regiment will be commanded by Lieut. W. Fane, Madras Infantry. At the last moment before going to press we learn that a siege train is to be dispatched from Bombay to join the force."

THE PUNJAB FRONTIER.

"The fight with the 'Kabyl Kheyl' Wuzers, by the force sent out to avenge the murder of Captain Meham, has, according to the *Lahore Chronicle*, had a salutary effect. The tribes against which the expedition was undertaken now sue for mercy."

THE VICEROY'S PROGRESS.

"Lord Canning and Lord Clyde were to enter Umballa on the 16th of January in state, the troops at the station turning out in full dress to receive their Excellencies. A grand durbar was expected to be held on Wednesday, the 18th. A ball was also to be given by the station to Lady Canning, and other grand doings were anticipated during the stay of the Viceroy at Umballa for about a week."

OUDE.

There is little or no news of importance from the frontiers of Oude. The campaign against the rebels is at an end, and detachments from all points are returning to their head-quarters. Our last advices stated that the Nana, who had disguised himself as a religious mendicant, was being looked after. The *Delhi Gazette* now learns that Government has received information regarding his movements, and that several leading characters are still in the hills north-west of Khyregurh. Other journals, on the contrary, confirm positively the news of the miscreant's death.

The *Oude Gazette* gives the gratifying intelligence that "some very extraordinary disclosures have been made, and those who lost property during the mutinies are likely to find much of it." The *Gazette* has accordingly been requested to give prominent insertion to the following notice:—"The district-superintendent of the Lucknow police requests those officers or residents who have lost property during the last two years in Oude will furnish him with complete lists of the same with as little delay as possible.—CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN, Deputy-Superintendent, Lucknow District."

A NEW TAX.

Mr. Wilson, it is said, has an idea of licensing all shopkeepers in India on the English system of licensing liquor-dealers. This tax, being about 3000 years old, would strike the natives as highly expedient and just.

VERY LIKE THE SEA-SERPENT.—While the ship *Typhoon* (just arrived at Liverpool from Bombay) was on her voyage home, and when in lat. 5.24 N. long. 22 W., the captain saw a large tree, upwards of ninety feet long, and without branches, but with long fibrous roots, extending eight to ten feet from the trunk. The tree was very thick, and, from its general proportions, the captain believes, would be very destructive in the event of a collision with a ship. This, perhaps, is the great sea-serpent, and the fibrous roots the mane so much talked of by other navigators.

THE ENGLISH ENGINEERS ENGAGED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT have struck on account of irregular payment of wages.

FRANCE AND THE PAPACY.

THE *Moniteur* publishes a circular, dated Feb. 12, addressed by M. Thouvenel to the Duke de Grammont, French Ambassador at Rome. This circular examines the circumstances which have caused the present state of affairs in the Legations, and states the reasons of the evil, and to whom belongs the responsibility of it. M. Thouvenel recalls the events in the Romagna before and during the last war, and endeavours to show that, from the day the Austrians evacuated the Romagna, the accomplished facts were unavoidable. At the beginning of hostilities the neutrality of the Holy See was proclaimed. The Austrians could, therefore, in complete security, continue to watch for the maintenance of public order in the Legations as the French did in Rome. It is not for France to judge the reasons which determined Austria to discontinue her mission while France remained faithful to hers. The Austrians having left, the inhabitants rather found themselves, than they had to make themselves, masters. The insurrection cannot therefore be imputed to France. M. Thouvenel recalls the counsel given by the Emperor to his Holiness on the 14th of July last, to grant reforms, which advice was not followed. Rome allowed every opportunity for reconciling the Legations to pass away. The Emperor then addressed his letter of the 31st of December to the Pope. M. Thouvenel proceeds to recall the proofs of devotedness which the Imperial Government has given to the Pope in affairs of the interior as well as of the exterior since 1848, and adds:—"From this statement it can be deduced how much satisfaction it would have afforded and would still afford the Government to give its support to a combination capable of relieving the embarrassments of the Holy See; but in this case the good will of France runs the risk of encountering insurmountable difficulties. The question is not only to restore the Legations to the Pope, but the means must also be found for maintaining them in his possession without having to follow a new intervention by a fresh occupation. Events have shown how powerless this measure would be to remedy the evil. Public opinion in Europe on this subject is formed. The occupation has been condemned by the lesson of the past. Such a policy is to-day impossible. Therefore the moment had really arrived to discover a different combination when the Emperor stated the necessity of it to the Pope. Evident interests and pressing considerations had brought the Holy See to such a necessity. A firm and absolute resolution to refuse to recognise the real nature of the present state of affairs would aggravate it more and more, and would at last create equally insurmountable difficulties. On the contrary, should the Holy See decide to leave the religious region, to which to question does not really belong, in order to return to the ground of the temporal interests, which alone are at stake, his Holiness would then bring about, however late, changes favourable to his cause. In any case it would then allow the Emperor to lend his support to a conciliatory and reasonable policy."

M. Thouvenel's despatch was duly presented to the Holy Father. The Secretary of the Roman States has, in his reply, confined himself to stating that, immediately upon receiving the orders of the Sovereign Pontiff, he will place the Nuncio at Paris in a position to communicate the intentions of the Papal Government.

M. Rouland, the Minister for Public Instruction, has addressed a circular to the Archbishops and Bishops of France, enumerating the customs, laws, and principles which have so long established in France the authority of the Church over religious society in independence of the State, which is the regulator of civil and political society. The Minister recalls the conduct of the Emperor since 1849, who has accorded to the Church great confidence and liberty, and has never made use of the prohibitions of special laws in reference to it. The Emperor, however, is not willing that this liberty, which had been conceded in the interest of public welfare, should become an expedient for agitation. The Minister reminds the Bishops that the disagreement between the Emperor and the Pope does not refer to religious but only to temporal questions. To excite civil discord would be a deplorable fault of the religious class. The Minister acknowledges that the immense majority of the clergy have avoided such dangerous ground, but he expresses his regret that some priests have abused the liberty of the pulpit to make offensive allusions and culpable provocations. The Minister hopes the Bishops will bring back to the way of the Gospel and to their duty the men who had departed from it. If the clergy owe veneration to the Pope, they owe respect and fidelity to the Emperor. His Majesty will always be happy to protect the French clergy, but he distinctly requires that the laws be maintained and executed.

What M. Rouland, as holder of an office peaceful by its nature, does gently, that angry Bonapartists, the Minister of the Interior, M. Billault, attempts to do with an iron hand. He has announced that the time has arrived to put an end to all agitation on the Roman question, and he consequently instructs his Agents to prohibit the distribution of writings and pamphlets unless duly authorised, and—here comes the real trumpet-sound of war—to report to the Council of State whenever the liberty of the pulpit is abused. This abuse will henceforward be stopped by appropriate administrative acts of the Minister of Public Worship, and, in cases of individual resistance, by M. Billault's police.

THE COUNT DE CHAMBORD'S VIEWS ON THE PAPAL QUESTION.

The following letter is said to have been addressed by the Count de Chambord to one of the most eminent of those who have advocated the cause of the Papacy:—

Venice, Jan. 25.

You have just rendered, Sir, to religion and to society a service for which I feel the necessity of thanking you. A dark policy believed the moral sense to be weakened, and opinion sufficiently kept down, to venture, under a vain appearance of zeal and affected meekness, to justify, encourage, and promote, after having formally promised to prevent, an odious act of spoliation, the inevitable consequences of which would be to establish everywhere force in the place of right. In truth, what possession is there more ancient, more legitimate, more worthy, even by its very weakness, of all respect, more frequently guaranteed by treaties, more generally proclaimed as necessary for the tranquillity of the world, than the temporal dominion of the Papacy? How can we do otherwise than recognise in this work of ages a decree of Providence securing to the chief of the Church, the principal source and venerated centre of Christian civilisation, the spiritual independence which is necessary for the fulfilment of its holy and salutary mission? Who but must feel that to annul a right so sacred is to annul every other right? To despoil the Sovereign in the person of the successor of St. Peter is to menace all Sovereigns; and to overthrow his throne, which has stood a thousand years, is to sap the foundations of every throne. It is sad to see France thus made use of as the instrument against her own conscience, her heart, her traditions, and all her interests, in order to carry out attempts which can end only in new convulsions. Thus, in this common danger, to the voice of the Episcopacy, which has raised the cry of alarm, are joined other voices no less courageous, no less zealous in support of the cause of right and of liberty, confounded and attacked at the same time as they are in their august representative the Pontiff-King. But no one has done so with more energy, reason, talent, and eloquence than M. — and I have read, not without being deeply affected, what he says at its close to a Pontiff so meek, so confiding, so generous, and now so tried by affliction.

(The Count de Chambord here quotes a passage from the pamphlet alluded to which encourages the Pope to resist, and to defend his rights, and with them the rights of the weakest Sovereign.)

May those noble and touching words be heard by all! How much to be regretted is it that, under the pressure which now keeps down in the depths of the heart the most noble sentiments, the absence of a wise liberty, abandoning to the mercy of arbitrary will all rights and all principles, leaves without defence, without protection, without guarantee, the dearest interest of France, of religion, and of society.

Receive the expression of my gratitude,

HENRY.

MISSIONS IN CIRCASSIA.—Prince Bariatsinski is said to have submitted to the Emperor, among other important projects, one for the institution of a Christian brotherhood for the propagation of Christianity among the mountaineers of the Caucasus. The members of this brotherhood, divided into four classes, will contribute to its funds either a certain donation or an annual subscription for the support of the missions in those countries, and the erection of churches for the converts. The donors will be entitled to wear the decoration of an order to be created for the brotherhood, and will also enjoy certain honorary privileges. The members of the first class, among other favours, will be received at Court, even if not entitled to that honour by their rank. Ladies are to be admissible as members of the order.

THE WAR IN MOROCCO.

DESPERATE fighting appears to have taken place between the Spaniards and the Moors at Melilla. At one time it is the Spaniards who get within the place, and at another time it is the Moors who drive them out of it. By the latest telegraphic accounts Melilla would appear to be in the hands of the Spaniards, who lost 182 men in the last struggle to obtain it. Melilla is the easternmost of the Spanish towns in Morocco, between Cape Treforcas and the Algerian frontier. The Spanish journals call for an energetic continuance of the war.

The Madrid journals state that the Cabinet had resolved to give Marshal O'Donnell carte blanche to treat for peace with the Moors, and that General Ustariiz was to convey to him despatches to that effect. The *Correspondencia*, a semi-official organ, says that "it does not entertain the hope that peace will be obtained." The *Pays* says:—"Spain will lay down as conditions for any arrangement with Morocco, first, the definitive cession of the territory conquered, having for limits the Sierra des Bullones and the Lesser Atlas; and, second, the expenses of the war to be defrayed by the Emperor." And it is stated in a Madrid paper that the Spanish army will occupy Tetuan and the banks of the river from that town to the sea until the indemnity be paid. The *Espana*, however, does not positively guarantee the exactitude of the statement. According to the same journal, Marshal O'Donnell has represented that to occupy Tetuan permanently would require 20,000 men. A Madrid letter says:—"The Queen received with great kindness General Ustariiz, bearer of the Moorish propositions of peace, put many questions to him, and expressed her great satisfaction at the progress of events. At the Council of Ministers which was subsequently held, to take the propositions into consideration, her Majesty is stated to have thus expressed herself:—"No doubt my heart inclines strongly to peace; but I must take into account the sacrifices made by the country and the fact that justice is on our side in this war. Our conditions of peace must be such as we have the right to expect; and if they are not accepted we must continue the war with new vigour." The letter adds that some placards had been stuck on the walls stating that the Queen was anxious to make peace at any price, in order to be able to send troops to Rome; but it says that, being regarded as calumnious, they had produced no effect on the public.

There can be no doubt but that the Spanish people are all for the continuance of the war. The news of the capture of Tetuan was received with a delirium of joy. Suspicion of the English advances in equal proportion. In a letter from Gijuzcoa we read, "Public opinion calls out 'forward!' and I cannot say where all this will stop. It is said that England is sending a squadron before Tangier, because she sees that the city will also fall into our hands, as Tetuan has fallen. Her selfishness cannot support this. She goes on favouring the 'poor Moors,' while she forgets the 'poor Chinese;' but, with the ardour of our victories, and with the pride which the Spanish soldier now feels, the slightest incident might provoke a conflict. Even among the most insignificant members of society you constantly hear such words as 'These scoundrel English—the wretches ought not to be borne with.' The press is beginning to take serious notice of the littleness of the English Embassy, which was the only foreign Legation which refused all demonstration of congratulation for our victories, and already you hear people mutter, 'Either Tangier or Gibraltar!' May Heaven grant that the matter be not aggravated, and that the intolerance of the English may not meet its due!" Very pretty bragging, no doubt.

The following picture of affairs at Tetuan on the 7th inst. is interesting:—

General Rios is Governor of Tetuan, which his division occupies. Headquarters are just outside the gates, on a pleasant green patch, with a huge algarroba-tree in the middle, and sprouting orchards and fresh fields, clear streams and cool wells, flowering banks and fruit-trees in blossom all around, and with the most charming scenery in whichever direction the eye may turn. The weather is beautiful, and the army is enjoying it after having, it must be owned, worked hard and fought well. To-day I took a long ramble through Tetuan, my companion a Spanish officer, our guide a quick-witted Jew, who, although all his life a resident here, was sometimes puzzled for an instant to know where he was, so perplexing are the intricacies of this strange city. It is a confused jumble of narrow lanes, formed by white houses with flat roofs, the first floor of three-fourths of which is built on arches over the street. You walk for twenty or thirty yards under cover, then a break overhead allows the entrance of light and a glimpse of the blue sky. Right and left from the streets are innumerable alleys, most of them short and blind, each of which contains several doors, often only two or three, leading into habitations. Most of the houses have no windows to the street, only dead white walls. Their windows are inside, opening upon the patio. Those who are acquainted with the cities of Southern Spain, especially with Cadiz and Seville, will understand by the term "patio" an internal court, almost a garden, marble-paved, a fountain in the centre, shaded with orange-trees and oleanders, and other flowering shrubs, planted or in boxes. This arrangement, delightful in a country where summer reigns for nine months out of twelve, is found in Tetuan but in a few of the best houses. In the others the patio is a small square opening, paved in mosaic, with coloured earthenware blocks. In most of the streets we met Spanish officers and soldiers straying about, gazing and gazing—curiosando, as the Spaniards term it: but presently we got into a quarter seemingly as yet undiscovered, and where no European uniform jarred with the Oriental character of all around. We were in the heart of the Moorish barrio, or quarter. Tetuan consists of two barrios, Jewish and Moorish, the former of about 400 houses, into which 10,000 Hebrews are closely packed; the latter containing from 20,000 to 25,000 Moors, who have much more elbow-room. We hardly met a soul in the streets; not a sound, not a rustle, nor a murmur reached us from the lines of wall between which we passed. It seemed a city of the dead. But on each side of us, our guide assured us, there was plenty of life—of trembling women and of anxious men, to whom the jingle of a spur or the clank of a sabre were sounds of alarm. As we paused for a moment in admiration of this solitude in a city-full, the sound of a key turned in an unlooked-for lock fell upon our ear. It proceeded from one of the short lanes—*calle de sac*—before mentioned, and to whose entrance three paces brought us. The key gave a second turn as we entered it, and we found ourselves face to face with an elderly Moor, attired in one of those white-brown haicks of which we have lately seen so many thousands on the shoulders of people with long guns in their fists. The Moor was clearly to look upon, his grey moustache was well combed, he held in one hand a huge key some ten inches long and of an antediluvian workmanship, and in the other a little bag with a lemon complexion and eyes as black as coal and as large as saucers. He was evidently taken rather aback at seeing us, and still more so when my companion, curious to enter a Moorish house that was not deserted and devastated like some we had already seen, expressed to him through our interpreter an intention of visiting his domicile. The first reply was a negative, pronounced with considerable decision; but, on insistence, the tone was quickly changed for one of supplication. His family (the old polygamist meant his women) were there, and were not to be seen by strange eyes, &c. There was a curious mixture of suppressed indignation and compelled humility in the Moor's manner and tone, and a look in his eye told as plainly as words that he would have killed the Christian dogs had he dared; but he was quickly put out of his agony by our turning from his door.

The Moorish soldiers appear to have pillaged the town, and especially the Jews' quarter, before they deserted it. The Jews were sorely victimised:—

They say the Spaniards saved their lives by coming, for that otherwise the Moors, having taken all their property, would assuredly have cut their throats, on their refusal to reveal the hiding-places of wealth they no longer possessed. It is pitiable to hear the tale of suffering of some of the poor wretches, who found themselves in a few hours reduced from easy circumstances to the most abject poverty. I entered some of their houses and heard many of them tell their story. Some of them had their clothes torn from their backs by the Moors, as punishment for remonstrance and prayers for mercy, and were turned out stark naked into the street, while the most fiendish violence was perpetrated in their dwellings. I fully believe that there is exaggeration in some of their tales; in fact, it may be said that we have practical proof of it, for whereas on our first entrance they met us with cries of hunger, declaring they had eaten nothing for three days, and, so forth, before I left the town, in which I passed nearly six hours, they, having discovered that the Christians paid for all they took, were selling very fine fowls for a few reales apiece.

THE STATE DUES.—Hanover has at last consented to refer the question of the State Dues to a conference of the States interested. As was done in the case of the Sound Dues, she has been called upon by the Government of this country, and others, to state what compensation she claims for the total addition of the dues, so that it may serve as a basis for negotiation.

AFFAIRS IN JAPAN.

TRADE with Japan has been suspended by the native authorities, but with the approval of the British Consul-General, on account of the improper conduct of some of the British residents there, and because of outrages committed on Japanese by drunken sailors. The first contact of the civilisation of the East with the commerce of the West has acted like the contact of certain hostile gases, and has created a very serious blow-up. We have before us a paper which has been printed and circulated among the Europeans resident at the trade ports of these islands. It is a despatch from Mr. Rutherford Alcock, our Consul-General at Jeddo, to Captain Howard Vyse, who is her Majesty's Acting Consul at Kanagawa, and it describes the state of things which five months of European trade had brought about in the country newly opened to British commercial enterprise. Mr. Alcock says:—

There have been murders committed twice at short intervals on foreigners in Yokohama, marked by circumstances of great atrocity and vindictiveness. After a period of great confusion and clamour, during which facilities for the exchange of Japanese and foreign coin had been afforded to a large amount, these facilities have been suddenly withdrawn, and trade, which had begun to show some signs of development, is stopped. . . . As regards the residents even, who have more permanent interests at stake, I wish the information which has reached me would permit me to believe that they, at least, had given no just cause of complaint, either to officials or peaceable inhabitants, by indecorous or violent conduct. I have reluctantly come to a different conclusion, and cannot doubt but that by their own acts, and by others in the persons of their Chinese followers, they have not unfrequently given cause both for irritation and ill-will.

Mr. Alcock speaks of drunken sailors, singly or in bands, going through the Japanese cities and offering violence to all they meet, and gives very sufficient explanations for the exasperation of the Japanese people. But this is the least of the causes of evil now working at Japan. We can tell the ruling evil in one sentence. "There is, at present, a premium of 100 per cent profit on the purchase by silver of Japanese gold coins." We can, to a certain degree, imagine what the result must be. It is easy to believe that everybody should be striving to obtain these gold coins, that the people should be pressed to give them on all sides, and that the laws of the country, which prohibit the export of gold, should be systematically broken. This does not even faintly picture the state of matters there. The present facts are these:—Certain British merchants, who are in this paper stigmatised in severe terms, have sent in requisitions to the Japanese officials for exchange into Japanese currency of a sum of money in dollars which is thus expressed in figures—1,200,686,778,244,601,036,953. But, as the ordinary powers of numeration scarcely stretch so far as to state this curious array of numerals, it is for our information thus stated in words—"One sextillion, two hundred quintillions, six hundred and sixty-six quadrillions, seven hundred and seventy-eight trillions, two hundred and forty-four billions, six hundred and one millions, sixty-six thousand, nine hundred, and fifty-three." This curious number is the total of a series of requisitions made under the names of Thomas Tatham, J. S. Barber, Thomas Eskridge, and B. Telge, and these gentlemen (it, indeed, these be real names) demand the exchanges, not entirely in their own names, but partly for constituents, who are named "Snooks," "Jack Ketch," "Stickup," "Sweedlepeeps," "Moses," and "Bosche." This sounds like a very ridiculous and most improbable story, and we can scarcely hope to be believed when we assert it to be anything more than a foolish and an innocent hoax. Let us hear what her Majesty's Consul-General says upon the subject:—

Some are a positive disgrace to any one bearing the name of an Englishman or having a character to lose. Not only the sums, in their preposterous amount, are an insult to the Japanese Government, to whose officers these requisitions were presented, but they are documents essentially false and dishonest, as purporting to be the names of individuals having a real existence and entitled to demand facilities for trade; whereas mere words are used as names, and made to convey gross and offensive comments. That there may be no question upon the strict correctness of this description I annex true copies of several of these documents, so disgraceful to the authors; and I have to direct you to circulate those, together with a copy of this despatch, for general information among the British subjects at your port. There are some outrages against society and the common interests of nations only fitly to be dealt with by giving them publicity, that the reprobation of all honest and rational men may overtake those who permit themselves such licence, even where the law may fail to reach them. Some have been careful not to sign their names to the documents presented to the Treasury; but you will have no difficulty in tracing them to the authors by the handwriting and other circumstances, and I forward you the originals that, in the event of the Japanese officials who received them being able to certify to the names of the parties presenting them, a copy of the name should be appended.

These papers were daily thrust upon the Japanese officials with every mark of rudeness and insult, and often with menace and violence. The object was to obtain from the Japanese Treasury silver coin in exchange for Mexican dollars, in order that with these silver coins they might purchase gold coins at their present disproportionately low value. It is very melancholy to be obliged to believe that names of considerable standing in the commerce of the East are not quite free from all implication with this jocular ruffianism. "Bosche" and "Jack Ketch" have other names. The unhappy Japanese, besieged by these rollicking requisitionists, paid away their coin for some time, until they became bewildered by the frequency and absurdity of the demands made upon them, and then they shut up the Treasury, and refused any further issue of the silver coins, for which only the gold coins were exchangeable.

The indignant British merchant now reproaches the perfidious barbarians with their breach of treaty. He is refused the silver coin of Japan for his dollars, and without Japanese coin he cannot carry on trade. Trade, therefore, is at an end; and who but the Japanese are to blame? Moreover, the Japanese officials are becoming insolent, and the populace are hostile. Stragglers, whose names are not "Bosche" or "Jack Ketch," but who have or had a palpable existence, are found with holes in their skins, and no one knows who murdered them. But is not "Bosche," and is not "Jack Ketch," a British subject? Shall they not, when the treaty is thus broken, seek the assistance of her Majesty's Consul-General, and shall not their treaty-rights, even if they should run up to sextillions, be vindicated by British men of war? We humbly venture to answer "Not so."

THE BUDGET AND THE TREATY.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer—if not other Ministers of the Crown—has had a very busy time of it, since the opening of his Budget, in receiving deputations from the various interests concerned. The Irish and Scotch distillers, the licensed victuallers, the wholesale tea and sugar merchants, the Liverpool shipowners, the merchants and traders of Bristol, Hull, Newcastle, Cork, Greenock, and other towns, and even the wholesale stationers, were represented by the deputations to which we refer.

The object of the wholesale stationers was to induce Mr. Gladstone to grant them a drawback, on account of the repeal of the paper duties, founded upon the impending depreciation in the price of paper. But Mr. Gladstone humorously remarked that some gentleman connected with the newspaper trade, whom he had just seen, had said that the price of paper would not be lowered on account of the repeal of the duty, the demand for the article being likely much to transcend the supply. The Irish and Scotch distillers also spoke of drawback, which the Chancellor said he would consider. The licensed victuallers object—on moral grounds—to licenses being granted to coffeehouses, coffeehouse-keepers, &c. The hopgrowers hope Mr. Gladstone is open to the consideration of new proposals about the hop duty. The wine-merchants condemn the alcohol test at present proposed, and ask for a uniform rate on all wines.

Mr. Gladstone has written a letter on the subject of penny registration, dock warrants, and contract notes. It is addressed to the importers of Mincing-lane. The Chancellor remarks that most of the resolutions of which they complain "may require modification." In the meanwhile he lays himself open to receive further communications from the gentlemen to whom he writes, and justifies his whole fiscal scheme from the imputation that the relief to the general public is to be made at the expense of special traders.

An important meeting convened by the Association for the Repeal of the Paper Duties was held on Wednesday evening in St. Martin's Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. Ayrton, M.P., and Mr. Charles Knight, Dr. Watts, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, which unanimously condemned the impost.

The Liverpool shipowners had an interview with Lord John Russell relative to the third article of the treaty. They asked for the withdrawal of that article, and Lord John is reported to have said that their request was reasonable. He added that he thought the French Government would reconsider that point. The third article, we may further observe, has been condemned at meetings of the shipping interest held at Shields and Plymouth. At the same time, many meetings have been held in the country at which resolutions altogether favourable to the Budget have been affirmed.

The *Moniteur* publishes a report of M. Rouher, addressed to the Emperor of the French, on the reform of the tariff as far as relates to the primary materials of industry. M. Rouher's opinion, after having examined the various interests immediately at stake, is that the change, as far as raw wools and cottons are concerned, may safely be introduced on the 15th of April. He proposes that all wools and cotton wools imported from countries out of Europe may be allowed to enter free of duty. Wools and cotton wools imported from other parts are to be subject to a duty of 3*fr.* per 100 kilo., if imported in French, and of 5*fr.* per 100 kilo. (rather more than two cwt.) if imported in foreign vessels. Wool imported by land from countries bordering upon France is to enter free of duty; but there is a slight charge on it, corresponding to the differential duties in favour of French shipping, which are everywhere retained for importation by sea when wools enter from countries not bordering on France. This is to prevent wool being disembarked either at Antwerp or Nice, and then imported by land into France, for, in such a case, the goods would escape the differential duties on shipping.

M. Michel Chevalier has published a letter, in which he says that the assertion that France would be prevented from carrying on a maritime war if deprived of English coal, or, in other terms, that she obtained the means of carrying on a maritime war by being allowed to lay in a stock of English coal, is a gross mistake:—

France has fewer coal-mines than England, but is not wholly destitute of them; the greater part of her mines are at a distance from the coast; but, by means of our canals and our railways, now almost completed, the distance may be got over without too great expense. I have made calculations, from which it results that the French coal sold in our maritime arsenals (Brest, Cherbourg, Lorient, Rochefort) would not cost more than 10*s.* the ton (1000 kilograms) above the English coal; and that sometimes the difference in price would not be more than 5*s.* In time of war the increased expense might, perhaps, amount to ten millions of francs in the year. Even doubling that sum, would such an increase of expense render a maritime war an impossibility? In time of peace the Atlantic fleet, with the immense forges of Brest, &c., &c., only costs five millions for coal. In the Mediterranean the case is still stronger. Also, we can obtain the Belgian coal extremely abundant and extremely good. Thus the pretext invented by the English Protectionists is absurd; it is directly contradicted by the facts.

The rejection of the article of the treaty would be an unfriendly act, and it would be taken for such in France. The cry would be raised of "Perfidious Albion!" Our great manufacturers would exclaim that they have been duped about the reduction in the export duties on English coal. The moral and political effect expected from the treaty—the drawing closer together of two great nations—would not be attained.

IRELAND.

LORD CARLISLE'S DIGNITY.—The Lord Mayor of Dublin gave his inaugural banquet on Monday night to a brilliant assembly, amongst which was the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. His Excellency, in reply to the toast of his health, defended himself against an imputation which had been thrown upon him—that he had not invested his office with sufficient gravity and solemnity. Amidst the cheers of the assembly his Lordship professed his love for the country in which he was placed as the representative of her Majesty.

SCOTLAND.

MRS. LONDON'S COFFIN.—A clue has at length been obtained to the mysterious affair at Carlisle. A young woman, calling herself Mrs. London, took lodgings in March last at Greenock, having with her a female child, which died on the following morning. The body was inclosed in a box, similar to that found at Carlisle, and was addressed to Dumfries, where Mrs. London said her parents lived. The landlady, however, alleges that Mrs. London took off the address and substituted one to an inn at Carlisle, at which she said she was going to call on her way to Hartlepool to join her husband.

THE PROVINCES.

PASSING A WEDDING NIGHT IN THE SNOW.—A young man named Kemp, with his aunt and father, left Whitstable last week in a conveyance drawn by two horses, for the purpose of being married to a young woman at Canterbury. The marriage ceremony was performed, and all passed pleasantly enough until the evening, when the party (now increased to four) left Canterbury about nine o'clock, in the same manner in which they had arrived; but the snow in the interim had materially interfered with the traffic on the road, and their progress homewards was far from rapid or safe. Still they went on, and had reached within two miles of Whitstable, when the driver announced that it was impossible to go on with the conveyance any further; and, taking the horses out, he proceeded with them to Whitstable, leaving the marriage party to pass the night in the snow. Here they remained until nearly nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, when they were safely conveyed to their destination.

STRIKE OF WORKWOMEN AT THE LEEDS FLAX-MILLS.—The female hands in several of the Leeds flax-mills have struck for an advance of 6*d.* per week per head, which would increase their wages from 6*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* per week. One large employer stopped his mill; others have since agreed to give an advance, but couple with it a 3*d.* "quarterming" if a full week's work is not worked out. As there is no organisation among the masters, it is not improbable that the hands may succeed. On Saturday crowds of the women paraded the streets and made a somewhat noisy demonstration.

AMUSING, IF TRUE.—In one of the populous and thriving manufacturing towns near Ashton-under-Lyne one of the volunteer rifle companies recently had a meeting for the purpose of choosing officers. It was known that there were many candidates for the honour, but it was not until the time of election that the exact state of the case was understood. On that occasion a suggestion was made that all the gentlemen desirous of becoming officers should retire during the election, when, to the general astonishment, it was found that only three members of the company were left to proceed with business. The three gentlemen left to do the work, however, did not flinch from their duty, and those who had retired were in due time summoned back to the meeting. They were then informed that the meeting had felt great difficulty about the selection, because the claims of all who had left the room were so conspicuous it seemed invidious to take one in preference to another. Under these circumstances the meeting had adopted the most obvious and satisfactory way of escaping the difficulty by electing themselves to fill the three vacant posts.

DEATH OF AN OLD CAMPAIGNER.—While the 1st battalion Scots Fusilier Guards were returning to their barracks on Saturday morning, accompanied at usual by their celebrated dog "Bob," he was unfortunately run over by a cart and killed. Bob sailed in the *Simoon* with the regiment to Malta in 1854, and on the declaration of war proceeded to Scutari. He was present with the regiment to which he was attached at the landing in the Crimea, and at the battle of the Alma, where he was returned amongst the list of "Missing." After the flank march, however, to Balaklava he again joined, after an absence of three days. He was present at the Light Cavalry charge at Balaklava, at Inkerman, and served in the trenches, and at length was at the final capture of Sebastopol. Bob returned with his regiment at the close of the war, and marched into London at the head of his corps. He had been awarded a medal for his services, which he wore round his neck as a memento and decoration.

CHRISTIAN CONVERTS IN MADRAS.—At a late sitting of the Legislative Council at Madras Sir C. Jackson moved the first reading of a bill "to provide for the dissolution of certain marriages entered into by Christian converts before their conversion." Sir Charles explained that, by the Hindoo and Mohammedan laws, conversion dissolved the marriage tie, and that by our law a married convert re-married he was guilty of bigamy, so that the convert was "thus compelled to remain a married man without a wife." The bill provides that if the heathen wife or husband refuse to live with the Christian wife or husband for two years after being questioned by the Zillah Judge that the parties shall be divorced; if there are children then the period before a dissolution can take place is fixed at four years. The expense of the proceedings is to fall on the convert. The bill was read a first time.

SKETCHES FROM A CUBAN PLANTATION.

In a previous Number we published some illustrations of a Cuban Plantation, and we now complete the series we then began.

It is exceedingly natural that in a community of men held in a state of bondage some should be dissatisfied with their condition and make an effort to regain the liberty which is every one's birth-right. But the negro has individually very little chance of escaping from the state of servitude to which an inhuman and illegal traffic has reduced him. His colour sets a mark upon him which makes any attempt at successful evasion well-nigh hopeless, unless there is a free State at hand capable of being reached in a short space of time. In Cuba there are no facilities of this kind, and after a few days' wandering in the woods the fugitive is sure to be tracked and hunted down by his pursuers. Instances have, however, been known of runaway slaves living for years in the forests and mountains, only coming from their lair at night to seek for wild roots, and hiding during the day beneath a heap of palm leaves. There are but two ends possible to this kind of existence—to be captured and carried back into slavery, or to die of disease and starvation like a wild beast. Occasionally the trackers whose business it is to follow in pursuit of these unfortunates stumble over a pile of decayed leaves, disturbing with their feet a heap of whitened bones which disclose by their significant position the last resting-place of some poor creature who preferred the solitude and liberty of the woods to the tyranny of the overseer in the cane-fields.

When a negro is missing from a plantation the overseer is soon made aware of the fact. Inquiries are at once set on foot, information is obtained as to where he was last seen, and in what direction he was going. Trackers (sabaneros) are then dispatched in quest of the fugitive. These men, who by constant practice have acquired a remarkable facility in tracing the whereabouts of the runaway slave, soon come up with the poor wretch. Spots that others would pass without noticing the slightest indication of any one having gone before, they at a first glance will perceive to have been disturbed, and will even tell you how long since. A branch bent slightly forward, or a blade of grass that bears a scarcely perceptible sign of having been trodden upon, is sufficient for them to determine whether an animal or a human being has caused their displacement. The sabaneros are accompanied by two different breeds of dogs in their expeditions—one small, with an excellent scent, used for the purpose of following up the fugitive to his hiding-place; the other, large and powerful, held in leash till the last moment, and only liberated in case of the runaway offering resistance.

We will now turn to a more pleasing subject than the capture of fugitive slaves. At the extremity of an orange-grove, partially shaded by the tall cocoanut-trees that spread their broad leaves over it, is placed an isolated building. There is no necessity to inquire by whom it is inhabited, only look at the crowd of little black, fat cherubs.



SABANEROS, ISLE OF CUBA.

who, disdaining the cool shadow of the verandah, are rolling about their playground under the ardent rays of a tropical sun, all of them shining as though they had been fresh oiled. If the negro at manhood has no great pretensions to beauty, in his infancy he at least does not inspire that repugnance which, reasonably or unreasonably, he excites amongst Europeans. Their chubby faces, lit up with two sparkling black eyes, are pleasant to look upon; their lips have not yet attained the hideous thickness which characterises them later; their noses are not the confirmed pugs which they eventually become; and their hair has not even the woolly texture that gives to the negro's head so much of the appearance of a mop.

However, we have made a mistake; all these glistening dolls are not black: some are of a rich chocolate tint, and there are significant indications of gradation of colour to be met with in the nurseries of most Cuban plantations. These piccaninies are well cared for in their tender years, as it is exceedingly important to the planter that they

should grow up fine, stalwart men, capable of doing a good amount of work, and representing, as live stock, a considerable amount of apital.

LULLING CHILDREN TO SLEEP IN THE HIMALAYAS.

OUR Indian empire, as is generally known, is bounded on the north by the magnificent range of the Himalayan Mountains, which separate it from the country of Thibet.

The higher range of mountains is eternally covered with snow, and among the highest peaks is that of Mount Everest, the exact altitude of which has only recently been measured from data purposely obtained by the officers of the great Trigonometrical Survey in India; it is found to rise to the amazing height of 29,000 feet. Others are of nearly the same altitude; and, until the recent observations were made, Mount Dhawel Geri, of 28,077 feet, was supposed to be the highest mountain in the world. Mount Everest (called so from Colonel Everest, who for many years superintended the grand Indian survey) is now, however, pronounced to be the king of mountains, nothing in the world, save its neighbour, coming within 8000 feet of it.

No pen can describe the magnificence of the scenery in those regions. There are two or more passes into Thibet which are practicable at a certain season of the year to those whose physical powers enable them to compete with and overcome the amazing difficulties of the adventure. One of the acts of Lord Dalhousie for which he took to himself the greatest credit, when Governor-General of India, was the making a road to Thibet from Hindostan across the Himalayas, for wheeled vehicles, at a very easy gradient. Vast sums were expended on it and vast energies and much engineering talent was fruitlessly thrown away. The project to throw open and connect the commerce of the two countries was as laudable as the design was ambitious; but no wheeled road was needed, a good safe track for beasts of burden would have been ample to begin with, especially

as the trade, consisting of rocksalt, shawls, pearls, borax, gold-dust, &c., is carried down on the backs of goats, sheep, and ponies, which are sure-footed and nimble, have from their birth been accustomed and the rudest tracks; and even where the road has actually been made the merchants with their rustic cavalades are to be seen preferring the precipitous and dangerous, but short, paths to taking the widely-divergent road.

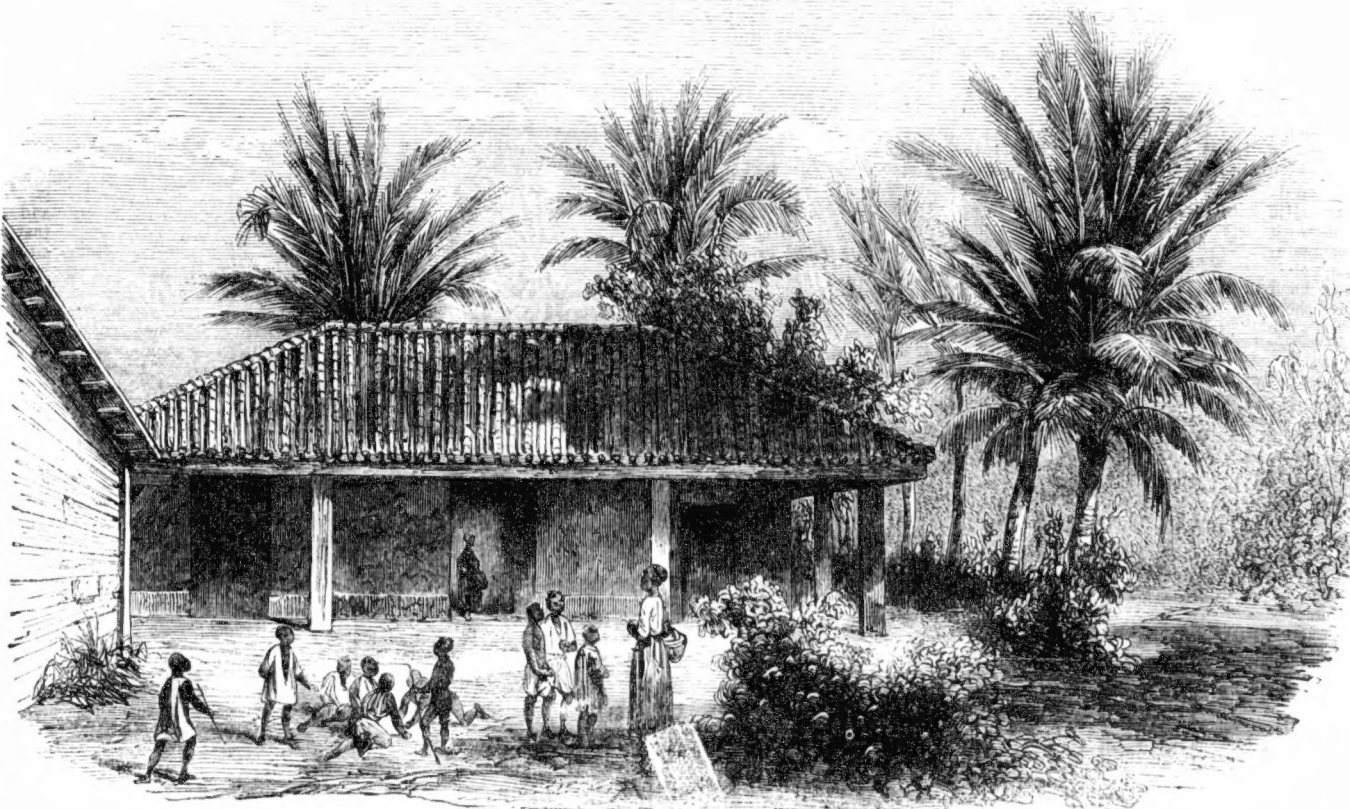
The road passes through Simla, which is now well known as being the principal sanatorium in the hills, whither the Governor-General, the Commander-in-Chief, the Lieut.-Governors, and other great men congregate during the hot season of the year, and where hosts of officers, civil and military, who can obtain leave on medical certificate or for private purposes, rush to enjoy the cool and invigorating breezes of the mountains, and to participate in the gaieties of what in England would be considered a fashionable watering-place. The traffic even of British commodities to this large station is very considerable, and



RUNAWAY SLAVES IN THE WOODS, CUBA.

although a very good road led to it, passing through the military station at Subathoo and Kussowlie, and preferred to the very last over the new one by the great majority of travellers, yet the grand Thibet road was nevertheless carried out at a fearful expense, and is still kept up at a heavy cost. It extends to a distance of about 150 miles from the plains, having been constructed in that most vile of methods—the compulsory labour of the inhabitants through whose district it passed. Each petty State, by some ancient treaty, having undertaken to keep in repair all roads in their territories, was thus ruled to be under compulsion to make this new road, and for this object thousands of families have for years been thrown into a state of wretchedness for the sole purpose of gratifying the will and determination of a weak-minded Viceroy, who listened only to those interested in the construction of the road.

Our Sketch, though not exhibiting any portion of the road itself, exhibits a scene of daily occurrence in the lower range of the Himalayas between Simla and the plains, where the road has now been opened, though thousands of labourers are incessantly required upon it, as, in consequence of the terrific storms, and the heavy rains that fall, in that district, nothing short of embankments set in masonry would resist the avalanches of trees, stones, rubbish, &c., that at times pour down upon it. Our Sketch represents the custom which is adopted by the women to lull their children to sleep, so that while wrapped in slumber they may themselves be able to go forth either to labour on the road or assist in the cultivation of the small patches of ground that, by an ingenious amount of terracing, enables the hill-man to rear grain for the few inhabitants who have their tiny homes, or hovels, perched upon every accessible space suitable for the safe erection of a domicile. Springs of water are abundant, and near one of these, where it flows in a silvery stream, on a ledge or field immediately beneath it, the children, from even a month old to three or four years of age, are brought and laid down. By means of a small piece of a slit bamboo a slight flow of water



HOME FOR YOUNG NEGROES AT SANTA ELENA, CUBA.

is obtained from the stream, and the bamboo slip is so adjusted that the water falling from above alights on the well-shaven crown of the child and trickles off: thus the child falls asleep, and the unceasing flow of the water on its head keeps up a perpetual lullaby; and so for hours and hours the most refractory infant is quieted and left without apprehension by the mother, who, when her work is over, returns to the spot, hoists up her child on to her hip, and sallies home. A more picturesque scene than what is occasionally exhibited by this daily performance is scarcely to be met with in the East, and forms one of the most characteristic and striking pictures that gratify the traveller in the Himalayas.

WRECK OF THE "ONDINE" AND THE "LUNA."

THE steamer *Ondine*, from Dublin to London, came into collision with the Bideford schooner *Heroine*, off Beachy Head, before daybreak on Sunday morning. She was struck just abaft the beam, and so great

was the injury that in less than twenty minutes no traces of her were visible. The news was brought to land by a portion of the passengers and crew, twenty-one in number who were saved in the jolly-boat and landed at Dover. About fifty of the passengers and crew were then missing: three have since turned up. As the *Thetis*, from London, bound on a foreign voyage, was steaming down Channel four or five hours after the disaster, the captain with his glass observed what he thought was a man on a raft at some distance. A boat was at once lowered and proceeded to the spot, when the second mate and two of the passengers of the *Ondine* were found floating on a life-boat. The two passengers, Marsh and Drew, were very much exhausted from the effects of the sea constantly breaking over them and the cold north-west wind; and they declare that they owe their lives to the kind treatment they received on board the *Thetis*. Drew had embarked on board the *Ondine* at Falmouth, for London. Marsh went on board her at

Plymouth on Friday evening last, with his wife and two children. He is a miner, and had been on a visit to his wife's relatives. His wife and two children left the sinking steamer in the life-boat with him, and were all three drowned at his side and washed away by the constant break of the sea, one of the children dying in its father's arms. Burke, the mate, says the port life-boat was smashed by the collision, and the other life-boat was stove in getting her over the side, as he found her up to her thwarts in water. He went on board to procure two buckets to bale her out, and, on his return, found in the boat twelve men, three women, and two children, all passengers. There was a "lady passenger," the chief stewardess, and Marsh's wife and children. Captain Hunt looked over the quarter and said to Burke, "Whatever you do, take in the lady passenger!" to which Burke replied, "I have her in; but the boat is full of water." The boat was then pushed off from the steamer's side, to keep her clear of the vortex, when she went down, and all three of the men agree in stating that here were a good many people on board, the majority women and



LULLING CHILDREN TO SLEEP IN THE HIMALAYAS.

children, with some soldiers returning from furlough; for they say, "As we were leaving the ship, and Captain Hunt was speaking to Burke, in the boat, about the lady passenger, a good many faces were looking down at us." The cutter and jolly-boat were still available at this time for the people on board the sinking vessel, with the crew in one of them alongside. When the life-boat pushed off from the steamer she was so deeply submerged that the water reached up to the people's waists as they sat on the thwarts, she being kept from entirely sinking by the cork in her compartments. Burke stood in the bows on the fore-thwart, and steered with an oar to keep her before the sea, of which there was a good deal on at the time, with a fresh breeze from the north-west, and at times the sea would make a clean breach over them. In less than half an hour from leaving the steamer he saw her rear her bows up in the air and go down stern first. Soon afterwards the people in the boat began to be exhausted, and dropped one by one. Mrs. Marsh and one of her children were first overcome and swept away, one dying from exhaustion consequent on the wash of the sea and the bitter north-west wind, in its father's arms. The lady passenger and the stewardess next followed, and so on, one after the other, until only the three rescued were left. The boat was now considerably lightened, and those who remained on her were the more readily distinguishable by any passing vessel. On Saturday—the day before the collision occurred—the *Ondine* landed forty-two soldiers, women and children, besides other passengers, at Southampton.

During the heavy north-westerly gale on Sunday evening the American ship *Luna*, 623 tons, Captain Warkmeister, which only left Havre early that morning for New Orleans, with nearly a hundred emigrants and a crew of twenty-four hands, was totally lost on the rocks off Barfleur, to the eastward of Cherbourg, and the whole of her living freight (with the exception of two) were drowned. The rock on which she struck is the same that was so fatal to the *Blanche Neif* in 1120.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 118.

AN ODD SCENE.

IN the House of Commons last week, when the Maynooth debate was on, there was a scene that no one ever saw before, and which we hope no one will ever see again. Mr. Spooner was at all times an odd-looking man. His features are strongly marked; he has a wonderful nose, and a not less remarkable chin. He is short, round-shouldered, and his clothes, which look as if they were made by a village tailor, hang loosely upon his oddly-shaped person. But Mr. Spooner, as he addressed the House on this occasion, was the strangest sight that we ever saw. He is, as our readers have been before informed, nearly blind, and therefore he was obliged to come down from his usual place and stand at the table, that he might have the advantage of a couple of candles which had been brought in for his special use. And further, he wore a pair of large goggles (*i.e.*, round projecting spectacles, guarded at the side by black silk to protect his eyes from the glare of the light); and as the old man stood there in the blaze of the gas from above, and the light of the two extra candles shining full upon his strange features, and in hollow, pulpit tones poured forth his discourse, there was something almost weird and ghostly in the scene. Mr. Spooner spoke for nearly an hour and a half, and we suppose that the reporters in their loft above must have heard him, but very few of the members, we venture to say, heard a word; for, in the first place, nobody listened; and, in the second, there was such a buzz of conversation pervading the House from the beginning to the end of his speech that it was quite impossible for even the most attentive to catch more than now and then a word. It has become the practice of late years to allow Mr. Spooner to exercise his hobby-horse alone. Nobody has supported and nobody answered him. Maynooth has long been voted a bore which is thoroughly hated in the House, and excites now no feeling out of doors. On this occasion, however, the rule was relaxed. Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Pope Hennessy got up to support, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien to reply; and Mr. Hadfield said something, but what it was we have not the smallest notion. We saw him standing high up near the wall, throwing his arms about violently, and could see that he was in a great passion; and now and then we were conscious of some inarticulate shriek above the elemental row, but nothing more, for as soon as Mr. Spooner sat down the buzz of talk broke out into a storm. It was near dinner-time, and the members were determined to have the division before they went to feed. Mr. Pope Hennessy is bidding high for the ear of the House, but he cannot be said to have fairly gotten it yet; and we question whether he ever will prove an effective speaker. Mr. Patrick O'Brien's quotation of a saying of O'Connell, that "there is nothing so dangerous as a pious fool," though true, ought to have been kept in. A young man should never try to wound an old man. Mr. Spooner, though weak, is sincere; and, as he has not long to live, it is as well to let him ride this broken-winded, spavined old hobby of his for an hour or two every year in quietude. It pleases him, and does little harm to any one now. It is a curious fact that on that very night the poor old gentleman lost his wife. She had been imbecile, or something worse, for a long time, and took her flight to better worlds that night.

SIR ROBERT PEEL.—HIS APPEARANCE.

It is impossible to imagine a greater difference between two men than there is between the late Sir Robert Peel and the gentleman who inherits the name, title, and estates of the deceased Baronet. Sir Robert Peel the father was an able, far-seeing, sagacious statesman, an eloquent but discreet orator, a courteous but severely decorous man; a man who never took liberties with any one, and who took care to keep himself within an impassable barrier of etiquette so that no man should take liberties with him. This was Sir Robert the father. How different is Sir Robert the son! The Robert Peel who now exhibits in the House is tall like his father, but there the resemblance ends; there is scarcely anything besides in his form, features, or bearing that reminds you of his parent. As he strides through the lobby he is generally taken by the strangers there to be some distinguished foreigner, and there is certainly something foreign rather than English about him, owing, perhaps, to his having lived much abroad. His figure is tall, imposing, and strikingly well made; his face is handsome and somewhat florid; he wears a thick moustache; his forehead is capacious, but not specially indicative of intellectual power; his eyes are brilliant and restless, and sparkle with waggery, wit, and fun, not unlike some Irish eyes which we have seen. He dresses in the very best style, not in the extravagance of fashion, but well; and, on the whole, you would take him to be, what we suspect he is, a dashing, witty, brilliant man of the world—one who is equally at home on the course, in the gaming-house, in the saloon, or at the dinner-table; and we should imagine that his principal characteristics are jollity, humour, wit, reckless audacity, love of fun, and unbounded generosity—regardless of all cost, and perhaps of prudence. This is the present Sir Robert, a strange son of such a father.

IN THE HOUSE.

Sir Robert is not a diligent attendant in the House, and has no certain place there. Sometimes he throws himself on one of the cross benches below the bar, at other times he sits below the gangway near the Peers' benches, whilst not unfrequently he mounts to the highest seat under the members' gallery. If Sir Robert stops long in the House you may be pretty sure that he means to speak, especially if he have a roll of papers in his hands; and, when it becomes known that he means to favour the House with an exhibition, the young men, and especially the fast young men, will wait for hours for it. They stop to hear Peel as they would go to a new ballet, or to see the debut of a prima donna. These are the young fellows who crowd at the bar and laugh and cheer to the echo when there is any fun going on. The late Speaker used to look with grave displeasure upon these noisy gatherings, and, occasionally, would call out—"Members at the bar must take their places!" when the crowd would at once scatter and disperse; but the present Speaker seldom, if ever, interferes. There are not a few, however, in the House who have no sympathy with these noisy exhibitions; but, on the contrary, look upon them as out of place in the English House of Commons. Especially is this the case,

we apprehend, with the friends of the late Sir Robert. And we can easily imagine that it must be painful to see the man who bears the *clavus et venerabile nomen* of the illustrious statesman thus condescending to be a sort of oratorical funambulist to amuse fast young men. Sir Robert Peel has a brother in the House, but the two are never seen together. Nor is this a matter of wonder; for the difference between these two brothers is quite as great as that between Sir Robert the father and the present Baronet. Mr. Frederick Peel is a dry red-tapist, assiduous and accurate, no doubt; but never did officialism assume a drier form than that which it has assumed in the person of Mr. Frederick Peel. Strange that these two sons should be so unlike each other—and both so unlike their father. We have sometimes thought that all the passionate part of the late Sir Robert Peel has been condensed in his heir, whilst all the plodding assiduity and accuracy in details which characterised the illustrious Baronet have been handed down to his younger son; and that, if the natures of these two could be commingled in one person, the great statesman might be reproduced.

HIS SPEECH ON RIFLE CORPS.

Sir Robert's exhibition on Friday was, if possible, more extravagant than it ever was before. The subject was the rifle corps mania; and for the space of half an hour he kept the House in a roar of laughter. When, however, we came to look at the speech, in the *Times*, the next day, it was difficult to discover why the House thus continuously laughed—from which we gather that most of the fun must have been evoked by Sir Robert's manner, while something of the uproar, no doubt, was owing to the contagious character of mirth; for it is well known that there is nothing more infectious than laughter. It is as catching as gaping, the vapours, and hysterics. There were, however, two or three decided hits in Sir Robert's speech, which would have told anywhere. That image, for instance, of Sir Robert's corpulent friend crawling for miles upon his belly, or sitting up in a tree for hours. And, again, his advice to the lawyers of the Temple to observe the rule, "in medio tutissimus ibis," which, Sir Robert said, might be translated, "It is safest to stick to the Middle Temple." This last hit tickled Lord Palmerston amazingly. Lord John Russell did not enter into it at first; but when the noble Premier whispered in his ear even his usually immovable face relaxed into a broad grin. It was noticeable that General Peel, the brother of the late Sir Robert, sat a few minutes after his nephew arose, and then got up and quietly left the House—a step which, we think, can surprise nobody.

THE BATTLE ON MONDAY NIGHT.

There was a report in the *Weekly Mail* of the proceedings at Lord Salisbury's, from which we learn that Lord Derby expressed a wish that there should be no "whip," in the ordinary sense, for the amendment which the Conservative chief would propose, "nor any kind of persuasion or coercion exercised." If Lord Derby really expressed this wish his followers certainly did not gratify him, for there was a whip sent out, and the Opposition members were "most particularly and earnestly" exhorted to attend on Monday night. And as with the Conservatives, so with the Ministerialists. For Mr. Brand also sent round "the fiery cross" to every Liberal member who could possibly be reached; and all day, on Saturday and Sunday, telegraphic messages were flashing along the wires, and special messengers were hunting out members as terrier dogs hunt out rabbits. And on Monday night the result was seen. For as early as three o'clock there was quite a respectable gathering in the House, and at ten minutes to four, when Mr. Speaker marched up the House with his chaplain behind him to open the proceedings with prayers, there was a very large congregation waiting for him. The House is always especially devout and prayerful on these great occasions. When only ordinary and unimportant business is coming on it is not uncommon for Mr. Speaker and his chaplain to be almost alone in invoking the Divine blessing. There are, in fact, hardly enough to make the "dearly beloved brethren" of the opening exhortation appropriate; but on grand occasions, where great issues are to be tried, and difficult questions are to be discussed, the members are as eager to be present at prayers as Irish Revivalists are to go to a prayer-meeting. And every body must acknowledge that this eagerness to pray when great duties are to be performed is very proper. At five o'clock the House was remarkably full for that early hour, and when Mr. Disraeli arose to introduce his amendment there could not have been less than 500 members present. They stood in a dense crowd at the bar, they clustered at the back of the Speaker's chair, they surged up into the side galleries, and even filled up the gangways, sitting on the steps, with their knees on a level with their chins.

DISRAELI LAYS HIMSELF OPEN.

Mr. Disraeli commenced, to use one of his own pet phrases, with "that gravity which is due to great occasions." But, how is this? Scarcely has the great leader of the Opposition spoken a quarter of an hour, and yet you see members sliding out, and the division lobby is filling with loungers. Well, if the truth must be told, Mr. Disraeli does not hold the House as he used to do. Even his own friends, or party we should say—for has Disraeli any friends?—get weary of him. He ranges so widely, they say, and labours so heavily, more like a Dutch lugger working against wind and tide than the dashing, raking schooner yacht, with every sail set, scudding before the gale, which he used to resemble. On Monday night he was specially heavy, and at times even wearisome. He elaborated his periods, occasionally halted for a word, was embarrassed in his action, now and then putting his hand up to his head—a sure sign that he was not at ease—and altogether failed to hold the ear of the House. Of course the House was decorously quiet, for Mr. Disraeli is still the leader of a great party; but it clearly was not very eager nor very attentive. As for ourselves, we have long made up our minds about Mr. Disraeli. For a slashing onset, when an opportunity arises for such a charge—say when some party manoeuvre is to be exposed, some grand coup to be achieved, in short, in a mere party battle—our great Caucasian is admirably fitted for his work; but a debater, in the real meaning of the word, he is not, and never was. He lacks logical power, cannot calmly reason for the life of him, and whenever he attempts to do so always miserably fails. And then, again, he always gives you the notion that he is not honest—that he himself is not confident of the correctness of his position, or rather that he is conscious of its incorrectness, and is labouring hard with glossing sophistry to make that which he does not himself believe in to look like truth—in short, "to prove the worse the better reason." "Well, what are you at in the House?" said a noble Lord to a Conservative country gentleman of the clear hard-headed school, of which sort of men we have a considerable number in the House—men who, though they cannot talk, can see clearly nevertheless. "Well," was the reply, "Dizzy is just laying himself open for Gladstone to double him up."

GLADSTONE DOUBLES HIM UP.

And it was so; and it was well known that it would be so; every body could see that, by Gladstone's movements and by his countenance; for Gladstone is not the undemonstrative being that his opponent is. You never see any signs of the inward working of the spirit in Disraeli's face; but Gladstone always reveals himself. Sometimes you see that he is moved to indignation; at other times, when some more gross fallacy or misstatement than usual is advanced, he looks like a greyhound hanging upon the slip and trying to be free, whilst not unfrequently a profoundly solemn shade steals over his face. This latter phase is very noticeable when there is any trifling beneath the dignity of the House going on. Mr. Gladstone was not in the House when Sir Robert Peel exhibited; but if he had been it is probable that he would have pulled his hat over his eyes, leaned back, and made no sign. Not that Mr. Gladstone is gloomy; on the contrary, he enjoys life, and at the proper time and in the proper place he can laugh with the merriest; but there is one thing which he specially dislikes, and that is to see the House of Commons degraded into a theatre for farcical exhibitions and for the utterance of the prepared witticisms of funny gentlemen. But, to resume, Gladstone did double up his opponent in capital style; and he will double up some more of his foes before another week is over. There is a formidable phalanx of men before him, and some of his own party have revolted; but he is equal to the occasion. This is no sudden,

unexpected battle that he is now called on to fight. It has been long expected, and the great Chancellor has long trained for it, and we cannot doubt for a moment but he will come off victorious.

"THE OLD UN."

At half-past twelve Lord Palmerston arose, and any one might see that the noble Lord "felt winning." His colleagues had beaten his opponents gallantly, and now he was well assured that the victory would be crowned and consummated by a successful division. All this you might see in the noble Lord's face, in his brisk movement to the table, and as he proceeded with his speech, in the life, vigour, and dash that there were about his manner, and the energy with which he laid about him. His first blow was aimed at Disraeli; but, as Disraeli had been left by the Chancellor of the Exchequer "without a leg to stand upon," the noble Lord let him go with only just a dig. He then fell foul of Mr. Malins. Mr. Malins wanted to interrupt his Lordship, and got so far as to say, "You'll excuse me;" but the noble Lord was not in the mood for interruption, and would have none of it, and so the poor member for Wallingford was obliged to take his physic quietly. The House was outrageously delighted with "old Pam's" spirit, and cheered him vociferously. The next victim was Mr. Horsman. Mr. Horsman had made a long speech, which had been cheered immensely by the Opposition; for Mr. Horsman, though "a Liberal," means to oppose the treaty and budget to the utmost, and in the course of his speech had objected to the treaty because it benefits France. "Well, if that be so," said the noble Lord, "why not vote for entire non-intercourse?" And at this point, amidst the loudest cheering and counter-cheering that ever we heard, Mr. Horsman jumped up, and denied that he had said what had been attributed to him. At this the Tories were in ecstasies, because they expected the "old un" must recant; but what did the "old un" do? Recant! No; but quietly said, "I reaffirm all that I said," and went on—at least he went on as soon as he could, for with the bitter cries of the Conservatives, the cheers of the Ministerialists, and the loud laughter mingled with these cheers and cries, the House was in the sublimest uproar we ever heard. However, it lulled at last, and on went the "old un" like a steam-engine to the end. Then Mr. Bowyer tried to speak, and was summarily put down; and then the House divided, and the Conservatives were beaten by 293 against 230.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FRANCE AND SAVOY.

Lord GRANVILLE, in reply to Lord Northbrook, said a communication had been received from the French Government to the effect that, if Sardinia should annex Central Italy, France would deem it necessary to annex at least some portion of Savoy. This step, however, would not be taken without consulting the other great Powers, or without the consent of the Savoyards.

DISSENTERS AND ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Lord St. LEONARDS said he could not concur in the principle of the bill, which proposed that Dissenters should participate in the trusteeship of endowed schools, without any reference to the fact whether they had previously or not enjoyed such a privilege. He was quite willing to admit the children of Dissenters into endowed schools, but strongly objected to the admission of Dissenters as trustees, as they would thereby acquire the power of controlling and meddling with the religious instruction given in such schools.

The House then went into Committee on the bill, which, as amended, passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TIME BARGAINS AND THE PENNY STAMP.

Mr. LAING stated, in answer to a question, that, the Act relating to time bargains being considered to be a dead letter, it was the intention of the Government that the penny stamp should apply to all transactions in the public funds.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.—THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

A series of questions was put to the Secretary for War, and answered by him, on the subjects of the arming of volunteer artillery corps, the providing of grounds for the target practice of volunteer rifle corps, and the permitting of officers of the Indian army to send their sons to Woolwich and Sandhurst upon the same terms as in the case of officers of her Majesty's other forces. In reply to Mr. ELLICE, he said he saw no reason to expect that he should have to ask the House of Commons for any supplementary estimates in addition to the estimates for the Army now before the House, which were large enough, and there was certainly no intention to ask for any additional sum, except for the disembodied militia.

STREET CABS.—REGISTRATION OF FOUNDLINGS.—FORGERY OF TRADE MARKS.

Mr. GRIFFITH called attention to the risk of propagating infectious diseases by the use of street cabs in conveying such cases to hospitals and other places, and suggested that some legislative provision should be introduced upon the subject; Colonel SYKES invited attention to a report of the proposed transfer of the business of the India Office to the Victoria Hotel, Westminster; Mr. GREGORY made an inquiry respecting the religious registration of foundling children; and Mr. ROBERTS another on the subject of forgery of the trade marks of our manufacturers by foreigners.

THE BUDGET AND THE TREATY.

There was much questioning and conversation on the subject of the Treaty and the Budget; but subsequent debates render it necessary to record them.

EXPENSE OF THE MILITIA, AND OTHER QUESTIONS.

Mr. PALK called the attention of the House to the great expense incurred in raising and training a regiment of militia, so as to make it fit for permanent duty; and asked the Secretary of State for War what arrangements he contemplated to fill up the vacancy in the numbers of the Army that will be occasioned by the disembodiment of the militia regiments.

A discussion took place on this subject, and also on the wearing of their belts by soldiers when off duty, originated by Mr. Griffith; as to the estimate of the expense of the China war, and whether it would fall on the Indian revenue, raised by Sir H. Willoughby; on the 11th article of the Treaty of France, relating to the export of coal, brought forward by Colonel Percy Herbert, with reference to which latter subject Lord John Russell said that the article was proposed with no political bearing; and the imposition of export duties being against the custom of this country. The desultory debates on these topics occupied some time.

SUPPLY.—THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

Mr. S. HERBERT, having replied to the questions put to him, proceeded to move the Army Estimates. He admitted that they were enormous, and, after comparing them with the estimates of last year, he showed what were the causes of the increase. He had, he said, to consider in what manner he could expend to the greatest advantage to the country the money Parliament would vote; and he had made a very large outlay upon the new rifled guns, which had proved so valuable in Italy, and which had been largely supplied to the Navy. The Government had thought it better to disembody the militia as soon as possible and add to the regular force, regarding it, as a general rule, inexpedient that the militia should be embodied in time of peace. He then specified the different branches of the force which it was proposed to augment, the extent of the augmentation, and the reasons upon which it was founded, the apparent increase being 20,000 men beyond the number voted last year, though in reality, owing to transfers from India and other causes, the increase was not so great. He denied that the military force of this country, amounting to 240,000 men, was too large, or disproportioned to the population, in comparison with other nations; and it must be recollected, he added, that our Army was not the Army of England only, but of our colonies and of India. Then it was said that our Army was a dear one; but he showed, by reference to the cost of other armies, that this was an error. Having got the men, he proceeded to consider how they were commanded, how practised, how clothed, how armed, how fed, and what was the state of their health. Upon all these points he gave minute details. With reference to the health of the Army he stated that a great improvement had taken place. Taking the mortality in the force at home—the best criterion—he showed that its rate had diminished in all the different branches, and although this might be owing, he observed, to the Army being a great deal younger than it was, in the Household Cavalry, which had never been in the Crimea or in India, the mortality had been considerably diminished. After making some passing remarks upon the volunteer force, and suggestions as to their organization, he discussed the other estimates—for the manufacturing establishments; for warlike stores—shot and shells and ordnance; with the separate and comparative merits and properties of the Armstrong and Whitworth guns; for barracks and other items which he thought required explanation. He repeated that the amount of these estimates was enormous, but he hoped that the explanation he had given would convince the House and the country that the Government had done their utmost to relieve the public burden as far as possible consistent with the circumstances of the

time, which was a transition period in almost every material of war. He concluded by moving a vote of 143,362 men, exclusive of 92,490 in India.

The vote was agreed to, after a discussion in which Sir R. Peel, in a most amusing speech, delivered a vehement protest against the magnitude of these estimates in a year of peace and against the volunteer movement.

The House, after some further business, adjourned at ten minutes to one o'clock until Monday.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20. HOUSE OF LORDS.

DEBATE ON THE TREATY.

Lord DERBY inquired what steps her Majesty's Government intended to take to carry into effect the 20th article of the treaty of commerce with France, which provided that the treaty should not be valid unless her Britannic Majesty should be authorised by the assent of her Parliament to execute any engagements contracted by her in its articles? His Lordship said he should not discuss whether the treaty was in accordance with the principles of free trade; it decidedly was at variance with the principles laid down by her Majesty's Government some two or three months ago, and he read several extracts from the correspondence between Lord John Russell and Lord Cowley to show that Mr. Cobden, with the sanction of Lord Palmerston and Lord J. Russell, had been actually negotiating a treaty on the very bases which they had shortly before repudiated. He had no doubt the Government considered the treaty as one of reciprocity, an opinion from which he most strongly dissented. It was felt that much mystery had been observed in negotiating this treaty, especially as Mr. Cobden was not positively known to have been the principal negotiator before the treaty was laid before Parliament. He proceeded to draw a parallel between the mode in which Mr. Pitt had introduced his commercial treaty with France, in 1787, and the manner which the present Government had deemed it expedient to adopt—very much in favour of Mr. Pitt's method of procedure. That procedure he detailed at some length, and called particular attention to the part which the House of Lords took in discussing that treaty, urging the necessity of discussing questions of this kind, and not refraining from them on the mistaken notion that, as the treaty referred to money matters, the House of Lords had no business to meddle with it. He highly esteemed the advantage of extending our commerce with France, but he wished to see it done, if done by treaty at all, by a treaty bearing on its face some marks of reciprocity. No steps had been taken to obtain an equalisation of the duties on shipping, and the article on the export of coal was highly dangerous in its possible consequences to our relations with countries with which France might be at war if coal were to be declared contraband of war. The treaty was unpopular in France, and was creating a strong feeling there against this country. The Emperor of the French, with all his power, had been obliged to impose these changes as law on the people of France by the authority of a treaty. For the sake of regularity he would conclude by moving that there be laid before the House copies of so much of the journal of the two Houses of Parliament in 1787 as related to the proceedings in Parliament with regard to the treaty of commerce and navigation with France.

Lord GRANVILLE pointed out a distinction which had escaped the observation of Lord Derby—viz., that Mr. Pitt's treaty was confined in its operation to France and England, whilst the recently-made treaty dealt with the customs duties of the country generally, and affected the whole world as much as it affected France. The Government proposed to carry the 20th article of the treaty into effect after certain resolutions were agreed to in the House of Commons. That House would then be advised to agree to an address to her Majesty; and if their Lordships wished for full information the resolutions and address would be laid before them, and they might then adopt an address of their own, as was done by the House of Lords in Mr. Pitt's time. In answer to Lord Derby's objections that the advantages of the treaty were all conferred on France, it was the opinion of many eminent Frenchmen that the treaty was solely advantageous to England, and that it would ruin French commerce.

Lord GRAY did not consider the present a fit occasion to discuss the merits of the treaty, but wished to point out one or two subjects of serious importance. Was it wise, he asked, that, for the purposes of cheapening French manufactures, we should bind ourselves to supply France with coals for ten years, while France continued to prohibit or levy a high duty on the exportation of articles of raw produce, such as rags and silk, equally essential to the manufactures of this country?

The Duke of ARGYLL said if the treaty were to be tested by reciprocity some defects would doubtless be found in it; but its advantages ought to be considered with its defects. He should have been highly gratified if the treaty had been a navigation treaty, but it was not so. He wished it to be understood that the continuance of the income tax was not due to the treaty, but to the increased naval and military expenditure which had rendered the continuance of the tax necessary.

After a few words from Lord HARDWICKE, Lord DERBY withdrew his motion; and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

After the presentation of a host of petitions, chiefly relating to the Budget, and replies to various questions, on the order for going into Committee upon the Customs Acts,

Mr. DISRAELI moved the following resolution:—"That this House does not think fit to go into Committee on the Customs Acts, with a view to the reduction or repeal of the duties referred to in the treaty of commerce between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, until it shall have considered and assented to the engagements in that treaty." He said although he and his party regretted that, from the peculiar manner in which public business had been brought before the House, they were obliged to precipitate conclusions which ought to be postponed until many preliminary discussions had taken place, he had deemed it his duty to give notice of this resolution in order to afford the House an opportunity of remedying an evil of no slight magnitude; for, if the House should go into Committee upon the Customs Acts and adopt the resolutions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the treaty would, in his opinion, never come before the House. If the Customs Act passed, the assent of Parliament, provided for by an article in the treaty, would have been fulfilled. If the reductions and remissions of duty under the treaty were made, he wanted to know how the Government proposed to subject the treaty to the constitutional control of the House of Commons? He thought the House could not do better, in order to extricate itself from a difficult and humiliating position, than follow the precedent of the treaty with France of 1786. Mr. Pitt in the following year called the attention of the House of Commons to the French treaty, moving resolutions which embodied the gist of the treaty; those resolutions were passed and reported; an address to the Crown was agreed to, which was sent up to the House of Lords; and it was not until both Houses had concurred in the address, and Parliament had had a constitutional opportunity of considering the treaty, that Mr. Pitt introduced his Consolidation Act. He saw no reason why the present House of Commons should be treated differently from that of 1787. In conclusion, Mr. Disraeli remarked upon the negotiator of the treaty and upon its form. He thought the appointment of Mr. Cobden as their secret agent was a most unwise act on the part of the Government, the treaty indicating the idiosyncrasy of the negotiator. As to the form of the treaty, it appeared to him to be an instrument devised to silence the voice of one Legislature; let it not, he said, deprive another Legislature of its privileges.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER contended that Mr. Disraeli was correct neither in his facts nor his principles. He read from the journals of the House some of the resolutions moved by Mr. Pitt in 1787, and some of the proceedings thereupon, and he denied that the Government had withdrawn the treaty from the cognisance of the House or abandoned the precedent of Mr. Pitt. He could not understand what were Mr. Disraeli's notions of the respective functions of the Crown and of Parliament in respect to treaties. He insisted that the Government had followed substantially the precedent of Mr. Pitt, with due allowance for the change of circumstances and of the law. Mr. Disraeli's proposition was puerile. The Government had held it to be their first duty to bring under the cognisance of Parliament the most vital and substantial parts of the treaty. The real sin of the Government, as he understood, was that they had combined the Treaty and the Budget; that is, that they ought to have reduced at once the duties upon French wines and spirits by resolution, which must have taken effect immediately. He concluded a brilliant speech by showing the consequences of this course, which would have had the effect, he said, of reversing the system of differential duties.

Sir H. CAIRNS contended that, by the course now pursued, should the House hereafter object to certain articles in the treaty not affecting duties, the customs resolutions having been passed the mischief would have been done, and the House could not go back. If they went into Committee on the Customs Acts, it would not be competent to any member to enter into the general policy of the treaty. This was a departure from the precedent of Mr. Pitt. He asked that the House should have an opportunity of expressing its opinion upon the treaty before it was called upon to deal with the customs duties.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied to Sir H. Cairns, and contended that the alterations of the law proposed by the resolutions with reference to the treaty brought the propriety of the whole treaty at once into the field of discussion, the treaty being the ground of the alteration of the law.

Sir F. KELLY disputed the construction put by the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the 14th and 20th articles of the treaty, the effect of which was that the treaty would be invalid until the whole, in its entirety, should have been sanctioned by Parliament. He pointed out the consequences of a decision of the House adverse to the 11th article (affecting coal), after a

reduction or remission of duties by the resolutions. If any one vote should be rejected by the House it would be impossible to adopt the treaty, or even for her Majesty to submit it to the approval of the House. This difficulty would have been avoided by a strict adherence to the precedent of 1787.

Mr. NEWDEGATE maintained that the course taken by the Government was not only repugnant to the precedent set by Mr. Pitt, but was not consistent with the practice of the House. He protested against the treaty as one-sided.

Mr. AYTON observed that the House was for the first time invited to depart from the established usages of the Constitution and enter upon a course hitherto unknown. It had always been the practice in these cases to take into consideration either the message from the Crown or the treaty itself. Whenever Parliament was called upon to vote the money of the people in execution of a treaty it was the practice to go into Committee upon the treaty, and then to consider the votes. The House, in Committee upon the Customs Act, would consider the resolutions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but not the treaty, the consideration of which should precede that of the resolutions. He should vote for the amendment.

Mr. MALINS complained that an attempt was made to drive the House into a sanction of the treaty by a side wind.

Mr. BRIGHT was at a loss to tell what was the question in discussion; nor could he find out from the resolution or the speech of Mr. Disraeli what was the real object of the motion. If he sat on the other side of the House, instead of carping at the treaty and making it the stalking-horse of party, he would attack it in a manly way. A portion of the members opposite were very much annoyed at the treaty; then, why not bring forward a motion and say so? He was of opinion that the Government had taken the right course; but, say that their policy was bad, the treaty bad, and the budget bad, let the course taken be a straightforward one; let an explicit resolution be brought forward, and the question discussed upon its merits.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD recalled the House to the distinct point in question—namely, whether the course taken by the Government would give the House a fair opportunity of discussing the treaty. He contended that it did not. He arraigned the policy of the treaty with reference especially to the 11th article respecting coals and the differential duties on shipping, and he asked when the House would have an opportunity of expressing its opinion upon those matters? What he wanted was a Committee that could consider all the clauses of the treaty requiring the assent of Parliament.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that he had found some difficulty in understanding the object of the resolution; but now it appeared that what was meant was evidently this—that, instead of those parts of the treaty which required legislative sanction being submitted to the House of Commons, it was proposed that every clause of the treaty—including those depending upon the prerogative of the Crown—should be discussed in that House; which would be a total change in the Constitution of the country. The Government, on the contrary, proposed to bring before Parliament all the clauses requiring the assent of the House, and then to move an address to the Crown on the subject of the treaty. This was the course which Mr. Pitt adopted, and it was the only course which Parliament could rationally pursue. He agreed with Mr. Bright that the proposition involved in the treaty, which was a large one, ought to have been met by a resolution putting its principle fairly in issue. To endeavour to harass the House by questions as to the form of procedure was unworthy of a great party.

Mr. HORSMAN said the House was called upon to pass financial votes, every one of which involved political responsibilities, while the instrument (the treaty) was not submitted to them. He showed that this course was opposed to that followed by Mr. Pitt in 1787, and, contrasting the manner in which Mr. Pitt had treated Parliament with the secrecy of the negotiation and execution of the present treaty, and the manner in which it had been postponed to the Budget, he thought they indicated something like a consciousness that the transaction would not bear the light. Mr. Gladstone, lurked under his profession. Sir R. Peel lowered duties to increase revenue; but Mr. Gladstone, instead of reducing taxes, abolished them. He imputed to the Government a double policy—a treaty of commerce and a rivalry of armaments—leading to expenses of peace and expenses of war, which was not satisfactory to the country, any more than reducing the duties on luxuries and taxing the necessities of the poor.

Lord PALMERSTON insisted that the subjecting all the clauses of the treaty to the control of Parliament would be contrary to the fundamental principles of the British Constitution. The Government intended to give the House an opportunity to express its opinion upon the treaty in the same manner as Mr. Pitt had done in 1787. He concluded with a brief but spirited reply to Mr. Horsman.

Upon a division the amendment was negatived by 293 to 230, and the House went into a Committee on the Customs Acts, the Chairman immediately reporting progress.

The report of the Committee of Supply was brought up, and, after an explanation by Mr. S. Herbert in reply to Sir H. Willoughby, was agreed to.

After some further business the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ENGLAND AND CHINA.

Lord SELKIRK moved for copies or extracts of certain specified letters from Lord Elgin to Lord Malmesbury respecting affairs in China.

Lord ELGIN took advantage of the opportunity afforded by Lord Selkirk moving for papers respecting recent proceedings in China to vindicate himself at some length from the charges of severity towards the Chinese which had been brought against him. He proceeded to mention the differences which had taken place between himself and Sir Michael Seymour, and said it was true he had experienced much disappointment in not having been adequately supported in enforcing his policy under circumstances of peculiar difficulties, and perhaps his despatches might have reflected that feeling. At the same time he acknowledged in the clearest and frankest manner the services which the Navy had rendered him, and mentioned, among others, the exploration by Captain Sherard Osborn of a large internal Chinese stream, and the opening up of Japan to British trade.

Their Lordships adjourned at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BUDGET.

In the House of Commons,

Mr. DU CANE moved the following resolution:—"That this House, recognising the necessity of providing for the increased expenditure of the coming financial year, is of opinion that it is not expedient to add to the existing deficiency by diminishing the ordinary revenue, and is not prepared to disappoint the just expectations of the country by reimposing the income tax at an unnecessarily high rate." He objected to the Budget, he said, first, because, while it failed to grapple with the financial exigencies of the country, it would increase our financial difficulties; secondly, because the principal reduction of taxation—namely, of the duties on wines and paper—was inopportune at the present moment, when he found the income tax raised to so high a rate; and, lastly, he objected to the Budget, because it was based upon an unnecessary and one-sided commercial treaty. According to the calculation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Budget would leave a surplus at the end of the year of £170,000; but the probable deficiency of the succeeding financial year Mr. Du Cane computed at not far from £13,000,000. What was likely to be the consequence of such a state of things upon a reformed Parliament? Cut off from the most useful sources of indirect taxation, the House would either seize upon the income tax as a permanent feature of the revenue, and carry it to a length that would make it intolerable; or it would provoke an ignorant impatience of taxation in the House, and induce it to resort to the cheese-paring economy which had already led to such disastrous results on the defences of the country. After a detailed examination of the policy and effects of reducing the wine duties, he discussed the proposal to abolish the paper duty, arguing that, if there was one tax more than another which the present Administration ought to have left entirely untouched, it was that on paper. Other taxes and other questions involved in the Budget he left, he said, to their appropriate champions, and proceeded to his final accusation, that the Budget was based upon a one-sided and uncalled-for commercial treaty, which was neither a free trade nor a reciprocity treaty, which cut off arbitrarily various sources of indirect taxation, and fettered the whole system of our taxation for years to come.

Mr. GOWKE defended the treaty, arguing that its stipulations justified it against the objections founded upon the free-trade theory, and appealing to examples which demonstrated that large reductions of duty were invariably followed by an enormous increase of consumption.

Lord R. MONTAGUE thought that politically the treaty could not be so well defended as commercially, but here there were inequalities and anomalies. He put it to the House whether it would accept such a treaty with an increased income tax.

Mr. BAXTER considered the Budget as the very best that had been proposed since the days of Sir R. Peel. Hitherto we had scarcely any trade with France, and the effect of the reduction of duties under the treaty would be greatly to extend that trade, and to inaugurate the principle of free trade generally, which would be a guarantee of peace.

Mr. LINDELL thought that politically and commercially the treaty was right. He objected to the motion, because it was an abstract resolution on a matter of finance, which depended upon the circumstances of the times and the exigencies of the State at the moment.

Mr. DOBSON was inclined to think that the treaty was commercially wrong, but politically right. Now, financial considerations must give way to general policy; and, if the treaty had the effect of removing suspicions,

and enabling the Emperor of the French to reduce duties on his side, it was worth the sacrifice of some political consistency and some revenue.

Mr. CROSSLEY said that the financial difficulty of the matter arose from the expense of our armaments, which close commercial relations with France would enable us to reduce. The treaty and the Budget had given the greatest satisfaction to his constituents.

Mr. HENNESSY complained of the small amount of gain which the reduction of duties under the Budget would give to Ireland in comparison with England. He complained likewise of the retention of the war duty on tea, which checked consumption.

Mr. DUFF believed that the treaty would be a great benefit, and the passing of it at this time an enormous advantage to Europe. The simplification of the tariff would be an immense benefit.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE admitted that great advantages might be derived by our trade from the treaty, which made a breach in the French system of protection, but he argued that the remissions and reductions of duties would, in spite of the elasticity of the revenue, leave a large deficiency to be dealt with by a crippled taxation; and that this was too high a price to be paid for the advantages offered by the scheme.

Mr. AYTON was of opinion that the general policy which had dictated the negotiation of the treaty was wise and discreet. The scope of the Budget entitled it to the admiration of the country, and no man could impugn it on behalf of the owners of property. He defended at much length the repeal of the paper duty, and advocated a permanent income tax on a just foundation.

On the motion of Mr. Hubbard the debate was adjourned. The remaining business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

On the order for going into Committee upon the Public Improvements Bill, moved by Mr. SLANEY,

Mr. WALTER called attention to a peculiar circumstance connected with the bill, to the object of which, he said, he was not unfavourable. The principle in church rates was that the majority should bind the minority, and if that principle were no longer to rule in church rates he did not see why it should be applied in effecting public improvements. This bill provided that, where two-thirds of a parish agreed to certain public improvements, it should be competent to them to tax the remaining third—a principle which was resisted in the case of church rates. He did not object to the majority binding the minority if the principle were consistently carried out. He moved to defer the Committee for six months.

After a short discussion, in which Mr. HENLEY and Sir G. GREY urged objections to the machinery of the bill, the amendment and the original motion were both withdrawn.

WINDOW-CLEANING.

Sir C. BURRELL moved the second reading of the Window-cleaning Bill, which proposed to subject to a penalty of 40s., or, in the discretion of the convicting magistrate, to fourteen days' imprisonment, any owner or occupier of a house, or part of a house, who may order or permit his servant to sit, stand, or kneel outside any window for the purpose of cleaning or repairing it, unless the window be on the sunken story.

The bill, the principle of which was supported by Mr. Packe and Sir G. Pecheil, was severely handled by Sir F. Goldsmid, Mr. James, and Mr. H. Berkeley.

Sir G. GREY thought the bill open to considerable objections; and Sir G. LEWIS, regarding it as founded upon a perversion of a legislative principle, moved to defer the second reading for six months; and this amendment was agreed to.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

On the order for the second reading of the Election Petitions Act (1848) Amendment Bill,

Mr. JAMES pointed out the monstrous abuses attending the presentation and withdrawal of election petitions, and recommended that the subject should be referred to a Select Committee.

After a short debate, turning principally upon the question to what Committee the bill should be referred, it was read a second time. On the question that it be referred to a Select Committee, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Several bills for the consolidation of the criminal law were read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE WINE DUTIES.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to Mr. Woodd, said the Government had no intention to grant any drawback upon wine, except to the extent already announced—namely, to the extent of the difference of the present duty and the duty proposed. The right hon. gentleman (in answer to Mr. Dancombe) said the Government did not intend to allow a drawback of the duties on British wines.

PRICES OF ARMY COMMISSIONS.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in answer to Sir H. Stracey, said it was the intention of the Government to lower the prices of the cavalry commissions to a level with the infantry, but there would be no alteration in the pay of either force from what it was at present.

THE INCOME TAX.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. H. B. Sheridan, said the income tax would continue to be levied as heretofore. Incomes under £100 would, therefore, of course be exempted.

THE BUDGET AND COMMERCIAL TREATY.

Mr. HUBBARD opened the adjourned debate. He said he could not congratulate the country upon the benefits it had derived from the treaty. Mr. Cobden had been very successful in his lesson, and the Emperor of the French had shown himself a very apt pupil; but this country would have to pay a 2d. additional income tax as the price of Mr. Cobden's first lesson on free trade to the Emperor Napoleon. If our Plenipotentiary had exerted himself to get the Emperor to reduce his Army and Navy, so that we might reduce ours, it would have been a real benefit to the country, and we might then have been able to reduce our estimates by £10,000,000. He deprecated both the continuance of the income tax and the machinery by which it was to be assessed and collected.

Mr. E. BARNES said the treaty with France had been accepted and approved of by the trading community of this country; for it was felt that, although England had gone further in her principles of free trade than France, she had not conceded so much, nor had she departed from her established policy to the extent that France had.

Mr. BLACKBURN said it appeared to him that they were taxing the people at large to purchase free trade for the ironmasters and coalowners; and, so far from that being free trade, it was a species of protection that was most unjust.

Mr. MARSH opposed the motion, and expatiated at some length upon the advantages to be expected from the treaty.

Mr. HORSFALL objected to the treaty because it did not retain in the hands of the Government the power of exporting coal during a maritime war, and also because it made no provision with regard to shipping. He thought the penny stamp on packages an impolitic measure. Notwithstanding his objections, he could not support a resolution which tended to prevent the passing of a measure that would clear the tariff of a host of duties, and by removing the shackles from trade, would materially increase the prosperity of the country.

Sir F. BARING defended the general principle of commercial treaties, but contended that endeavours should be made to get from other countries the same concessions that we had obtained from France, inasmuch as the concessions on our side were made, not to France merely, but to all the world.

Mr. BRISQ cordially supported the scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, especially with regard to the commercial treaty, the principle of which he hoped to see adopted by other countries as well as France. He approved of the income tax as a permanent source of revenue, although it was unequal in its pressure, and required readjustment.

Mr. BRIGHT gave his warmest support to the financial scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and reminded the House of a speech he had made last July, when he urged the importance of an understanding with France whereby those obstacles to the trading intercourse of the two countries would be removed, and we should be enabled to offer to France 30,000,000 customers for her produce.

Mr. WHITEHEAD supported the motion, and charged Mr. Bright with an inordinate admiration of despotic Governments. As regarded the Budget itself he (Mr. Whitehead) considered it extravagant in the highest degree, and the imposition of a double income tax as not only a clumsy but an odious expedient. The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to analyse the commercial treaty, and maintained that the article in regard to wines was impracticable.

Mr. CARDWELL vindicated the financial propositions of the Government, which, however formidable in the abstract, would, he believed, open up new sources of trade and industry, which would very soon more than balance the present expenditure of the country.

On the motion of Mr. NEWDEGATE the debate was adjourned.

SIR WILLIAM NAPIER.

Two generations of Englishmen have rejoiced in a family which seemed born to perpetuate the associations of an heroic age, and to elevate the national sentiment at least to the point reached in the best part of the military period of our civilisation.

The noble old type of the British knight, lofty in valour and in patriotism, was felt to exist in its full virtue while we had the Napiers in our front. We have every reason to hope that the type will not be lost, whatever may be the destiny of Europe as to war or peace; but the Napiers must pass away, like other virtues and powers; and now we have lost the last of the knightly brothers, and nearly the last of the family group, by the death of him whose Portrait appears on this page.

The family have a remarkable ancestry. It seems a strange jumble of names and characters. Henry IV. of France, Charles II. of England, the Dukes of Richmond, Charles James Fox, and Lord Edward Fitzgerald are among the relations on the one side of the house; and the great Montrose and John Napier, the inventor of logarithms, were among the forefathers on the other. The Hon. George Napier, the father of this band of brothers, was a man of remarkable qualifications in every way; and it was a mystery to his children that he did not attain a higher position in the world than theirs. Two of his sons inherited his noble personal presence, and all the five early gave evidence of the force of character which they believed had marred their father's fortunes, by exciting jealousy among the public men of his time. However that may be, Colonel Napier's want of distinguished success in life gave his children the great advantage of being reared in what they call "poverty." It was an advantage to them, because it was a stimulus, and not an oppression. The pride in their father and his name kept them in good heart; their love for their widowed mother cheered them in their efforts; and their own individual force bore them up against all obstacles.

From their mother they inherited the sensibility which is as conspicuous as force in them all. Her mother, the wife of the second Duke of Richmond, died of heartbreak within the first year of her widowhood; and what the strength and vivacity of Mrs. Napier's feeling were we see by the letters of her son Charles to and about her, as they are given in his "Memoirs." She was beautiful in youth, and indeed throughout her long life, and venerable in age; and she was an object of public interest early and late—first as the beloved and betrothed of George III., and finally as the mother of "Wellington's Colonels." The early story is well known—



GENERAL SIR WILLIAM NAPIER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

the rejection of the King's addresses by a girl of seventeen, her subsequent acceptance of them on sufficient proof of the sincerity of his attachment, the inevitable breaking off of the match for political reasons, and the long lingering of the affection on one side at least. It seems rather far-fetched to suppose that the family of Colonel Napier were neglected and discouraged by the sons of George III. on account of the attachment between the respective parents; but it is understood that the Royal lover was watched with solicitude for years after all intercourse with Lady Sarah Lennox was broken off. She became the second wife of Colonel Napier.

The three eldest sons of Colonel and Lady Sarah Napier were soldiers. Charles, the hero of Scinde, and of many another scene, was the eldest. George was the next. He was the well-remembered Governor at the Cape, where he showed an administrative genius almost as remarkable as his elder brother's in Scinde. He was as eminent a soldier too, and bore a no less astonishing amount of wounds. Wellington's letter to Lady Sarah on occasion of George's loss of an arm at the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo is one of the best remembered of his private despatches. All the three brothers suffered from their wounds to the end of their lives; all won high military rank; all were K.C.B.s; all were Governors of dependencies—for William was Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark, while George was ruling at the Cape and Charles in Scinde. The fourth brother, Henry, was in the Navy. He was like his brothers in the union of literary ability with the qualities most eminent in active service. His voluminous "History of Florence" is of great historical value. He was even a greater sufferer than his brothers from the constitutional sensibility of the family. The early loss of an adored wife at Florence broke the spring of his life. He became subject to cruel suffering from neuralgic disease, during long years, which left their record in his Florentine history; and he survived his brother Charles only a few weeks. George died in 1855; and then only two remained—the subject of this notice, and Richard, the accomplished youngest brother, admitted to the Bar, but preferring study to the exercise of his profession. William had a narrow escape of being reared at Court as a page. As no Napier was likely to repay any amount of Court discipline, the result of such an experiment would probably have been disgrace of a kind to nourish rather than mortify pride. He did much better in entering the Army, which he did, and at the age of thirteen soon experienced the dangers as well as the glory of war. At the battle of the Coa, in



THE ROYAL ARTILLERY BALL AT EAST GREENWICH

July, 1810, he was wounded in the hip, and suffered severely for two months. On the 14th of March in the next year Charles was making the best of his way, bandaged for his own terrible wound in the face, received at Busaco, when he met a litter of branches, covered with a blanket, and borne by soldiers. It was his brother George with a broken limb. Presently he met another litter. It was William, declared to be mortally hurt. Charles looked at the spectacle which met him at the end of a ninety-miles ride, and rode on into the fight. Wellington might well relish talking of "my Colonels" the Napiers. Nearly thirty years afterwards we find Charles snatching time from his anxious business of keeping the Chartists quiet to explain to William a medical opinion of the causes of the terrible suffering William was enduring:—"He said it was the ball pressing upon some large nerve, or upon the backbone," &c. For three years William commanded the 43rd in the Peninsula, where he was wounded four times, and for which he received seven decorations and was made K.C.B. He did and bore a good deal as a soldier, but the distinctive work of his life—"The History of the Peninsular War"—was not begun, nor as yet dreamed of.

Writing that narrative was a political service of incalculable importance. When he entered on his work Wellington was unwilling that the melancholy facts of the early part of the struggle should become known to the world; and if he, the conqueror, was unwilling, it may be imagined what was felt by the obstructive officials who had done their utmost to crush the commander and his enterprise. Well as we understand it now, nobody knew at the close of the war that Wellington's greatest difficulties lay within the Cabinet and the War Office at home. Whether we ever should have learned the truth without Napier's help there is no saying; but we know that to him we owe the full and clear understanding that we have of the true scheme and character of the Peninsular war, of the ability, temper, and conduct of the Ministry of the time, and of the merits of our great General. That history has, therefore, modified our national policy, and our views, plans, spirit, and conduct as a people. There are few books on record which have effected such a work as this.

The most commonplace people found it most difficult to understand the Napier politics. From their connections and their towering pride they might be expected to be particularly aristocratic, yet they were exactly the reverse. They were as Conservative as Wellington in some lights, and as Radical as Cobbett in others. That they had quarrels with Tories, Whigs, and Radicals in turn was, unhappily, not very wonderful; but what were their principles? Sir W. Napier's pamphlets on the Poor Law and on the repeal of the Corn Laws explain

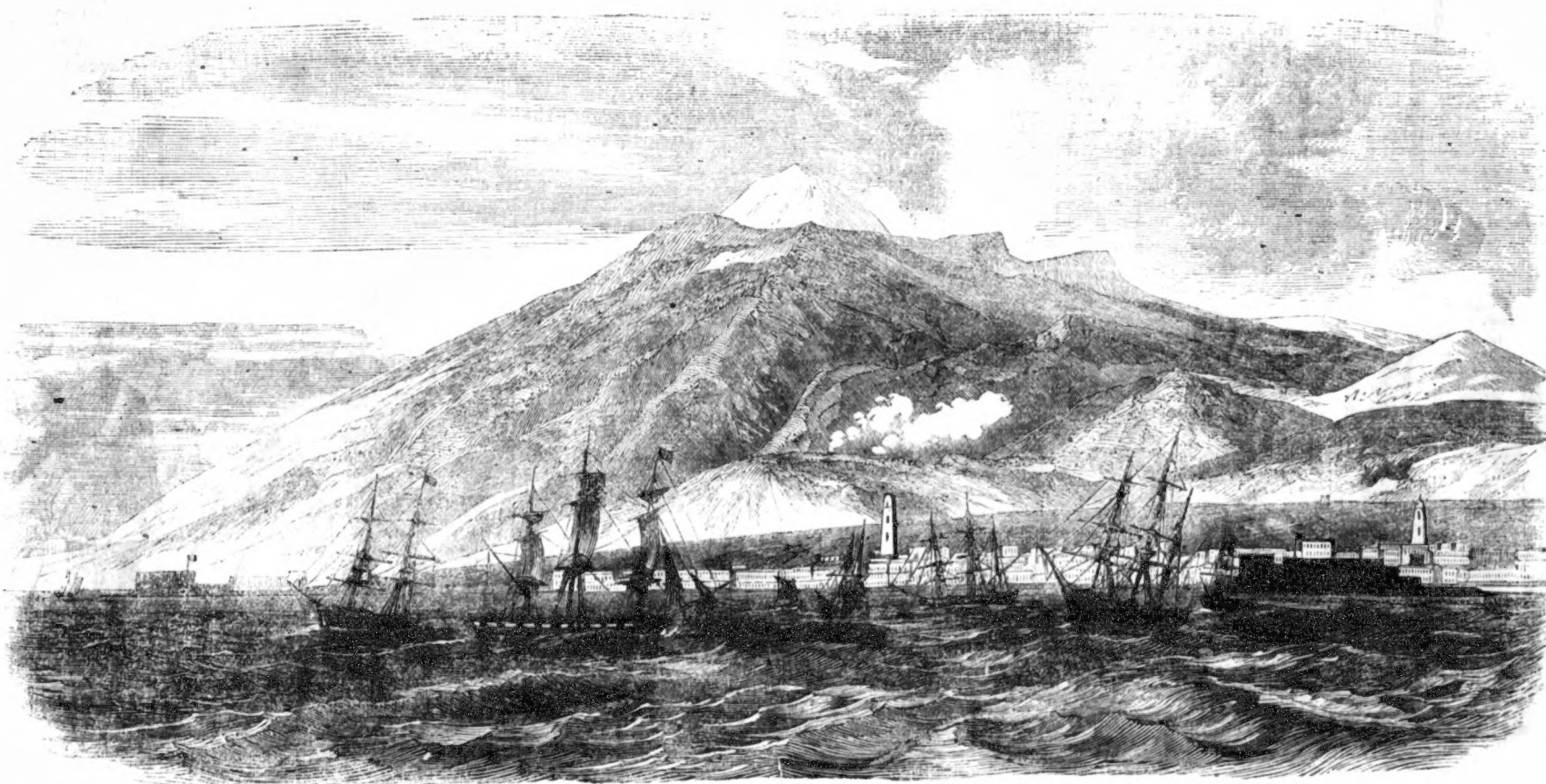
a good deal; but the best key to their social principles was seeing the action of their daily lives. The servants all made friends of, and living on and on, as in a natural home; the labouring class treated with respect and courtesy as long as they were just and kind in their own walk, but encountered as an enemy when guilty of oppression. These were evidences of the genuine democratic spirit which dwelt in those proud hearts, those sincere and just minds. Sir William never let pass among his intimates such expressions as "the lower orders," "common soldiers," and the like. He was pacified by the explanation that "order" in this sense did not mean difference of species, as in natural history, but the primitive sense of "rows," in which some must naturally find a higher and some a lower place; but the other expressions he never would endure. There is no such thing as a common soldier in England he declared; ours are not "common soldiers," though they may be "privates." He had to defend himself some years ago in a characteristic cause. An action for assault was brought against him by a man whom he had thrashed for persistent cruelty to a horse. The trial is deeply impressed on the minds of all present by the peculiarity of the only witnesses for the defence being two deaf-and-dumb youths—Sir W. Napier's only son and a comrade of his. It was a strange and pretty sight—the pantomime, the clear account rendered by the finger-speech, and the father's spirit which shone out in the youth debarred from the father's eloquence. Everywhere tyrants, small and great, were in one way or another thrashed by the Napiers, after obstinate refusal to desist from oppression. This was the one clear point about their politics.

Sir William had, as we have said, one son. Nine daughters were born to him, five of whom survive him. His life was happy in old age. His wife, some unmarried daughters, many grandchildren, and all whom his benign domestic temper had attached to him, ministered to his ease and to his intellect as well; so that his decline was gentle. Till a late stage of his life his accomplishments as an artist were a precious resource to him. Others besides his immediate friends will remember his statue—"The Death of Alcibiades," in virtue of which he was made an honorary member of the Royal Academy. His paintings are no commonplace amateur daubs, but both explain and are explained by the splendid picture gallery of his great historical work.

For many years he was a neighbour of the poet Moore, at Sloper-ton; and the two Irishmen, opposite in almost every respect but nationality, much enjoyed one another's society. Napier, the giant, with a head like Jupiter Tonans, contrasted wonderfully with the dapper little chamber songster. The wine-cup was associated with love and war in Moore's imagination;



THE DRUMMER-BOY. (FROM A PICTURE, BY C. J. LEWIS, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)



THE ISLAND OF TENERIFFE.

while in Napier's war was associated with famine, torture, and seas of blood; but both were Irishmen, both patriots in their several ways, both lovers of literature; and they were good neighbours. Latterly, Sir W. Napier lived at Clapham, at Scinde House (called by eabmen "Shindy Hall"). Thence to the last he studied every turn of human affairs, watching over his brother's fame as vigilantly as if he were still writing his life. When the Indian revolt broke out he pointed out his brother's clear foresight of the calamity, and of the mode of it. When the revolt was put down, and reorganisation of the Indian administration began, he made the world observe how his brother's inventions—despised and destroyed in a day of presumption—were revived under a better spirit of government; the Scinde Police, for one, extended now from State to State; and the Camel Corps, which means life or death under circumstances of Indian warfare; and again, the barracks.

He has left those behind who will guard his memory no less well, if indeed any other guardianship is needed than the national feeling towards the gallant brotherhood of knights, and the historian of the Peninsular War in particular.

THE LITTLE DRUMMER.

MR. LEWIS, to judge by his "Little Drummer," of which we publish an Engraving, cannot be a married man, or, at all events, he cannot have any children, otherwise he would not look with a favourable eye on such a terrible operation as drumming, than which nothing, except, perhaps, a disagreeable wife, is so admirably calculated to make home unhappy. Many a father has been drummed out of his own house by his infant son; and, as old law deeds are frequently used in the manufacture of children's drums, it has often occurred to us that no parchment would be so suitable for the purpose as the backs and remainders of petitions for divorce. Mr. Lewis's juvenile hero, who has the large black eyes and the long glossy hair of a young spaniel, seems highly satisfied with himself; and we have no doubt that his performance on the drum, if not quite worthy of the illustrious Mr. Chipp, are at least creditable to the boy's energy and to his insensibility to noise. "The Little Drummer," however, cultivates the drum more as a warlike than as a musical instrument (we infer as much from the symbolic rapiers or foils on the table behind him); and certainly it is the enemy of peace, not only in "the tented field," but also, and above all, in the domestic dwelling. Mr. Lewis appears to paint children with facility. Besides "The Little Drummer," he has sent to the Exhibition of the British Institution "Sunny Days" and "Children Playing at School."

SANTA CRUZ, TENERIFFE.

THE harbour of Santa Cruz, shown in the annexed Engraving, is the port chosen by the French authorities for ships carrying troops to China to call at. The reason of this delay on the voyage is to allow the men a run on shore before crossing the vast ocean tract that lies before them. The town of Santa Cruz is the seat of the Governor-General of the Canary Islands, and is built on the south coast of the island of Teneriffe, not far from its southern extremity. The harbour is not large, but it is well protected from the winds which habitually blow in these latitudes. At the distance of from 75 to 100 fathoms from the land there is a good anchorage in 6 to 12 fathoms, and half a mile off, in 25 to 30 fathoms. The lowest part of the town is more than 20 feet above the sea level, and the ground rises gently. The houses are built in the Spanish-Moorish fashion, with a courtyard in the middle, and have only one floor. The streets are straight but narrow, and have foot pavements. The place carries on a considerable commerce, more especially with England, upwards of 100 English vessels visiting the harbour.

Teneriffe, called Chinerfe by the original inhabitants, the Guanches, is the largest and most important of the Canary Islands. Its length, from south-west to north-east, is about sixty miles. Towards the south-eastern extremity it is nearly thirty miles across, but it grows gradually narrower towards the north-east, being near that extremity hardly more than five miles wide. The area of the island is 1012 English square miles, which is nearly equal to the area of Cheshire. The highest ground of the island is the Peak of Teneriffe, called by the inhabitants Peak of Teyde, which name is derived from Echeide, signifying "hell" in the language of the Guanches. The mountain is a volcano with two summits, the most elevated one being 11,946 feet above the level of the sea. It is not on record that volcanic matter has issued from either of them: they are at present only solfataras, from the crevices of which sulphuric vapours are constantly arising. However, in 1706 a great quantity of lava issued from the north-eastern side of the ridge which unites the two summits.

Teneriffe was occupied by the Spaniards in 1496, and the greater portion of the Guanches were killed in the war by which they obtained possession of it; the remainder intermarried with the conquerors. The present inhabitants must, therefore, be considered as Spaniards, whom they resemble in person and character. The Spanish language alone is spoken, mixed, in the parts remote from the towns, with a few other words.

ROYAL ARTILLERY BALL.

THE annual ball of the staff sergeants and sergeants of the Royal Artillery was held in the spacious rooms of the Crown and Sceptre Hotel, East Greenwich, on Friday evening, February 17.

The ballroom, which was most tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens, &c., presented a very gay appearance, the various handsome uniforms of the different regiments, mingled with the rich dresses of the ladies, adding much to the brilliancy of the scene. Conspicuous amongst the guests were several gentlemen and their ladies of the Volunteer, Artillery, and Rifle Corps of London, Blackheath, and Woolwich. Upwards of two hundred visitors were present, and dancing was kept up with great animation till six o'clock the following morning. The dance-music was performed by a portion of the splendid band of the regiment, in its usual artistic style.

The whole of the arrangements were most ably carried out by a managing committee, under the superintendence of Sergeant-Major Blades, Royal Artillery. Sergeant John Hedley was master of the ceremonies.

A NOBLEMAN IN THE RANKS.—The heir of a Scottish earldom was discovered in the garb of a private soldier a few days ago. On being recognised his Lordship, who formerly held the rank of an officer, at once admitted that he had enlisted. How far this act will bar certain legal proceedings already commenced against him is yet to be decided.—*United Service Gazette.*

RECENT BUDGETS.—The following table exhibits at a glance the reduction and imposition of taxation between 1843 and 1858:—

Year.	Taxes Repealed or Reduced.	Taxes Imposed.
1843	£411,821	...
1844	458,810	...
1845	4,546,306	£53,270
1846	1,151,790	2,000
1847	344,886	...
1848	585,968	84
1849	385,798	...
1850	1,310,151	...
1851	2,679,864	600,000
1852	95,928	...
1853	3,247,474	3,356,383
1854	1,254,107	9,954,643
1855	312,960	3,225,907
1856	2,203,475	...
1857	10,753,582	92
1858	2,100,000	456,780

The large range of the figures in the years 1854-5-6-7 is of course to be attributed to the Crimean war; but, taking the whole period, there appears to have been a net reduction of taxation of no less than £12,226,701. Notwithstanding this very considerable remission, the net revenue paid into the Exchequer advanced from £52,582,817 in 1843 to £61,812,555 in 1858, so that the revenue-yielding powers of the empire would seem to have increased in the sixteen years about 40 per cent.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1860.

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

THE interesting letter of the *Times* correspondent from Tetuan, published on Thursday, furnishes some valuable hints as to the character of the Spanish war in Morocco, and its probable results. Since Tetuan was taken the expedition has halted; the army is reposing on its laurels; and O'Donnell is quietly enjoying his new dignity of a Grande of the First Class. A glance at the position may afford a momentary relief from the labours of the Budget, with its hop-growing, coal-expecting, and other associations.

We have never thought the Spanish invasion of Morocco wholly without excuse; but there have never been pretexts enough for anything on so large a scale. To chastise piracy is a respectable object, and the dignity of the European Powers cannot be too strongly asserted on the southern coast of the Mediterranean. But Spain has been acting as if she had wider objects in view, and her success so far supplies several points for reflection. It is as well, to begin with, that we should understand how possible invasions by sea are, when the invading army can once land without being opposed by adequate—and equally equipped—force. The Moors are brave, and long ago, when armed and disciplined on the same scale as Europeans, they were all but a match for their glorious mediæval chivalry. Even now they fight like heroes, and bear defeat like stoics; so different from the wretched Jews there, as the *Times* writer well shows. But what is gallantry against gallantry and modern inventions? against gallantry and discipline, skill, training? It is only self-sacrifice at best, which certainly does honour to a race, but cannot save it. We need hardly point the moral, one as useful to ourselves as to the Moors; nor insist on the necessity of welcoming to a fair trial and polishing into a complete efficiency every discovery, moral or material, in the science of war.

What the miseries of war are this campaign shows as clearly as all campaigns. There is a ghastly picturesqueness in the details of the sufferings of the plundered Jews, in the stories of gangs of conquered people clearing the dirt of ages—the filth of generations—out of their Tetuan homes. War has its stern aspects of good and of reform. The vile self-abandonment which can live contentedly in dirt was, in fact, part of the cause of the invasion, and was punished by Providence through it in this kind of way. Indeed, this is the philosophy of war, as of the existence of all the violence and suffering of the animal creation. Providence is not fastidious in its choice of instruments, but lets loose Marats and Robespierres on a corrupt French society one day, and Spanish military ambition on a corrupt African one the next. Here, however, we are bound to remark that the Spanish soldier seems to be improved. He boils his soup-cauldrons with felled orange and almond trees; but he is not such a tyrant to the Moors as his ancestors were to the Americans of old in the great invading day of his race.

We now come to some statements equally significant in another way. The empire of Morocco, we know, has been long disorganised, and this evil of course the invasion has made worse; but we are now told that "the ex-king of a tribe . . . has offered to bring 13,000 men under Spanish government provided he be restored to his station;" and that "there would be no difficulty in forming a native corps;" to which is added—"O'Donnell entertains the project." Such is the regular course of wars by civilised against semi-barbarous peoples. It was so *conquered India*. It was so the Romans held the world. What O'Donnell thinks of doing in Morocco the French have done in Algeria; for the superiority of the European to the Eastern is less in mere courage than in brain.

We do not know that the Spanish Government has been calculating all along on results like this—on the possibility of fixing its rule on the Moors by help of the Moors; but the supposition would explain that present unpopularity of the English in Spanish society which, without being explicable by anything we have done, may well be excited by the prospect of our inevitable dislike of such designs. And the Spaniards are right in thinking that Great Britain objects to their planting themselves permanently, in any capacity, in the Moorish empire. The equilibrium of European power in the Mediterranean would be injured by it. Gibraltar would be inconvenienced by it. The rule of the Emperor of Morocco, whatever its defects, has its political value as much as the rule of the Sultan at the other end of the same sea. Against either Potentate any single Power may bring its complaint and exact its compensation; but no Power is entitled to do more, for more would be a threat to the strength and honour of its European-neighbours. We have already quite recently had one great war about the relations of Northern nations to the East; and, as no statesmen now exist capable of settling such vital points by their intellectual skill, other wars will probably follow as the Oriental empires break up. But at least let us not precipitate events which we ought rather to strive, even afar off, to avert. And let Spain set a good example, the rather as she has so much to redeem. Payment of debts is a good beginning towards reform, and she has begun it. The suppression of piracy is a pardonable project. She has now a hold from which to urge it manfully. Internal reforms are loudly demanded in her own country—they ought, surely, to have precedence. But we hope that no reliance on the sympathies of the French Emperor and his Spanish consort will tempt her to run the risk of opening a new branch of the "Eastern question" by picking out just that Power to trespass on whose existence is a matter of the most interest to Great Britain.

DEATH OF MR. DRUMMOND, M.P.—We regret to state that Mr. Henry Drummond died on Sunday night, at his seat, Albury, near Guildford. Mr. Drummond was born in 1786, and married, in 1807, Lady Henrietta, eldest daughter of the ninth Earl of Kinnoull, who died in 1854. He was elected for West Surrey in 1847, and retained his seat up to his death.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE *Court Journal* is enabled to state that "there is not the slightest foundation for the announcement of the approaching marriage of the Prince of Orange with an illustrious Princess."

PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK OF THE NETHERLANDS and their daughter, Princess Mary, have arrived in the Isle of Wight. The two Princesses intend to remain three months in that island, but the Prince will return very shortly to Holland.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Commander-in-Chief, has signified his intention of presiding at the dinner of the volunteer officers to be given on the 7th of March.

THE KING OF NAPLES has sent a diamond snuff-box to Montalembert, and 1000 napoleons to Vuillot. Montalembert's known principles are not those of the Neapolitan Court, whatever may be the "principles" of the late *Univers*.

THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF FLORENCE are about to present Captain Peard—"Garibaldi's Englishman"—with a bust of himself, and an address.

A MEETING OF GENTLEMEN of influence and position held last week at Willis's Rooms resolved to erect some permanent memorial in honour of the late Mountstuart Elphinstone. Lord Ellenborough, Lord Stanley, Earl Stanhope, Sir John Lawrence, and Colonel Sykes were among the speakers.

MARSHAL NIEL and THE DUKE DE MAGENTA are about to receive, for their share in the battle of Solferino, the Piedmontese Order of the Annunziata, the oldest in Europe, having been established in 1362.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE are getting model cabs made to supersede the necessity of conveying diseased people in the ordinary vehicles.

SIR C. WOOD announces that the half of the new Victoria Hotel at Westminster Abbey is to be rented by the Indian Administration.

A CROMARTY MAN was on Thursday week frozen to death in an open boat. He was steering, and died with the helm in his hand.

THE VICTORIA CROSS has been conferred upon Mr. W. F. Donell, magistrate; Captain W. M. Cafe, Lieutenant F. D. Brown, and Private Denis Dempsey, of the 10th Regiment, for distinguished services at Lucknow and elsewhere in India.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY has been consulted as to the disposition of a remarkably fine collection of paintings in water colours which the present proprietor is desirous of presenting or bequeathing to some public institution.

DARBY LENIHAN died on the 8th inst., at Coolnagower, Waterford, at the extraordinary age of 112 years. He possessed all his faculties to within a few days of his death.

M. BABINET, the successor of Arago, says, in the *Journal des Debats*, that there will be the highest tide on the 8th of March next that there has been in Europe for a century. *Holden's Liverpool Almanack* gives the highest tide of the present year as Friday, the 9th of March.

THE SHEEP FARMERS in SCOTLAND are suffering severely by mortality among their flocks in consequence of the bitterness of the weather, and especially on a severe snowstorm.

A SOLEMN TE DEUM was sung on Sunday last at Spanish-place Chapel, Manchester-square, in thanksgiving for the victory gained by the Spanish arms over the Moors.

MISS NIGHTINGALE'S HEALTH, which has for some time caused much uneasiness to her relatives, continues to decline.

SIR HENRY STOKES has published a notification in the *Ionian Gazette* condemning the custom, heretofore prevalent, of transmitting to the Lord High Commissioner, as confidential communications, documents containing slanderous attacks on persons both in public and private situations.

A DEPUTATION waited upon Sir Charles Wood on Saturday week, with an unusual object. It was composed of directors of life insurance companies, and they claimed a share in the compensation awarded by Government for losses during the Indian mutiny, on the ground that they had an interest in the lives of persons who were murdered.

SIR GEORGE CLERK, at present permanent Under Secretary of State for India, will succeed Lord Elphinstone as Governor of Bombay, we hear.

MR. FAULKNER, who has been selected by the United States' Government to succeed the late lamented Mr. Mason as American Minister in Paris, has arrived in that city.

MAJOR-GENERAL PENNEFATHER will be transferred from the 46th Regiment to the 22nd, vice Sir W. Napier, deceased; and Major-General the Hon. Charles Grey will succeed to the colonelcy of the 46th Regiment, vice Pennefather.

SOME EXTENSIVE FORTIFICATIONS are in progress at Hartlepool. The batteries will altogether mount nine guns, and will be provided with Sir William Armstrong's long range 68-pounders.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE is expected to take place on the 31st of March over the usual course, from Putney to Mortlake.

THE REV. H. GARRATT, Curate of Chesterfield, has been committed for trial on a charge of embezzling a sum of £18 3s. 9d., which was collected at the church in May last on behalf of the Church Missionary Society.

SEVERAL COMPANIES OF MARINES are being trained at Toulon for landing on an enemy's coast, we are told. Each man is provided with a six-barrelled revolver, a bag of grenades, and a hatchet. He carries a cross-belt a rope ladder six feet long, and round his waist a cord, having at its extremity a grappling-iron, with four prongs, for scaling walls.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS has presented the University of Oxford with a valuable collection of Devonshire fossils. She has also transferred to the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University £5000 Three per Cent Consols, the dividends arising therefrom to be paid to two scholars, to be termed "The Burdett Coutts Geological Scholarship."

MR. GLADSTONE'S speech in explanation of the Budget has been reprinted in a supplement to the *Monitor*. The report is divided under appropriate headings, and is prefaced by some observations highly laudatory of the Chancellor's eloquence.

ONE OF THE OLDEST CHURCHES in the TOWN OF MONS fell in with a tremendous crash a few days ago. Many years back the edifice ceased to be used as a church, and has since been devoted to different purposes—in 1814 as an hospital for the sick and wounded of the Army, subsequently as a store for arms and ammunition.

SIX OR SEVEN HOUSES in Three Oak-lane, Horselydown, were destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The conflagration was so rapid that men, women, and children were obliged to rush half naked from their tenements into the street.

THE HOUSE OF MICHAEL ANGELLO AT FLORENCE, which is filled with works of art, has become the property of that city by the bequest of Signor Buonarroti, one of the great sculptor's descendants. As some opposition was made by Signor Buonarroti's heirs, the Tuscan Government settled the matter by paying them 4000 scudi.

M. SAINTON and Madame Sainton (late Miss Dolby) are at present in Paris on a wedding trip, and intend to give a concert in the Grand Salle of the Hôtel du Louvre.

A MAN WAS PLOUGHING with TWO HORSES at Icklingham, Suffolk, when one of them sank into the earth (probably on the site of an old well) to the distance of fourteen feet; but, the soil round the animal having been excavated, it was got out alive.

SIR CHERIEE JAMSETTEE JEKERHOY has ordered a firm at Bombay to prepare a splendid Court robe of crimson velvet interlaced with gold which he intends to present to the Queen of England.

THE WELL-KNOWN PAINTER RAFFAIT died at Genoa lately. He had gone to Italy to rejoin Prince de Demidoff, by whom he was first brought into notice, in 1840, as illustrator of the "Voyage dans la Russie Méridionale." He had only attained his fifty-eighth year.

LORD BROUGHAM has introduced a bill to exempt prisoners from the necessity of pleading guilty or not guilty to indictments.

THE WIDOW OF THE LATE REV. ROBERT HALL died at her residence, near Bristol, on the 15th inst., at the advanced age of seventy-four.

LORD EBRINGTON, who has so recently been called to the Upper House in his father's barony of Portescue, is nearly blind. The malady has been brought on, according to his Lordship's physicians, by over attention to official business some years ago, whilst holding the appointment of Secretary to the Poor Law Board.

A MEETING was held at the Thatched House on Saturday to promote preliminary drill in public schools in connection with rifle corps. Lord Elcho, Lord Grosvenor, Lord West, Sir De Lacy Evans, and other distinguished gentlemen were present.

THE SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST passed off without disturbance on Sunday last, owing to the presence of a large body of constables.

THE CUMMING MILLENNIUM.—Dr. Cumming said recently at Leeds that the year 1867 seemed to end 6000 years of the world's history, and hence the millennial rest of 1000 years was close at hand. An European war was looming more dreadful than that which had recently happened. He believed that England would emerge from the midst of these evils of wrath, and his study of prophecy, so far from making him feel gloomy, filled him with hope.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

HUNTING is not over in the provinces. Hence in some measure the fact that only 523 members were in the division on Monday night; and further, it was not expected that the House would divide so soon as it did, and that the debate would have been adjourned; but after the crushing reply of Mr. Gladstone it was seen that Mr. Disraeli's move was a mistake, and he and his friends were glad to get clear of it. And, looking over the lists of absentees, I have arrived at the conclusion that if all the members had been present the relative strength of the Ayes and Noes would not have been much altered, for the numbers of Liberal and Conservative members absent were about equal. It is pretty clear now that the much-talked-of agreement amongst the Irish Roman Catholic members to oppose the Government at all cost does not exist. Some Irish Liberals, it is true, went with the Opposition; but others voted with the Government. It is confidently affirmed that there was no plan of Opposition settled at the meeting at Lord Salisbury's, and that Mr. Disraeli himself had no definite order of battle until Friday night. It was the appearance of disunion in the Opposition ranks that first induced him to oppose the Budget and Treaty *in limine*. He believed that the Conservative party would be with him to a man, and, calculating that he might possibly get some dozen Liberals to vote with him, he determined to try the fortune of war. But he was grievously disappointed; for the deserters from the Liberal ranks did not equal in number the deserters from his own. The attack was to have been led by Mr. Du Cane. This was arranged between the chief and Mr. B.; and the member for North Essex placed the notice of his motion upon the books. Scarcely, however, had this been done when some misgivings were felt by the leader of the Opposition, and another notice of motion was entered in his name, not as a substitute for Mr. Du Cane's, but as preliminary. Both these notices stood to come on as amendments on the question, "That the Speaker do leave the chair;" but, a division having taken place on Mr. Disraeli's motion, the other could not by the rules of the House be put. The case stood thus:—The original question was "That Mr. Speaker do leave the chair." The amendment was "To leave out all the words after 'that,' in order to insert the words 'This House does not see fit to go into Committee,'" &c. The question put was, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question," which question was decided in the affirmative. After this decision it was of course impossible to propose another amendment. Mr. Du Cane then withdrew his amendment and entered it in another shape—viz., as an amendment in Committee to the resolution to be proposed on the Customs Acts; but here Mr. Du Cane was stopped again, for it is a rule of the House that you cannot in Committee move an amendment which extends to subjects which the Committee is not at liberty to consider. Mr. Du Cane's motion was a general one referring to matters not belonging specially to the customs revenue, and therefore could not be put. It was then proposed that Mr. Du Cane's amendment should take the form of a substantive motion, and so at last it was settled; but here, if the House had thought proper, it could again have stopped Mr. Du Cane, for no notice had been given of the motion in this form, and without notice no motion can be brought forward without the consent of the House. However, Lord Palmerston, seeing that this motion must come forward some time, chivalrously proposed that the House should give its consent; and thus, after all these mishaps and obstructions, Mr. Du Cane's motion got itself launched.

I think the Treaty and Budget may now be considered safe. There will be probably all sorts of objections offered from all sorts of people; but they will scarcely form into a mass of sufficient weight to beat the Government.

On Thursday the Carlisle Election Committee will open its sittings. A good deal of interest clusters round the Committee, for the members petitioned against are Sir James Graham and Mr. Lawson, his nephew. Mr. Lawson is, I hear, in some danger; and, as the two members had but one committee to manage their election, it is within the range of possibility that Sir James may lose his seat. I confess I can hardly imagine that this will be so. I cannot suppose that such a wily old bird as Sir James has not kept clear of infraction of the law. Sir James himself will, of course, be examined; but, we may rely upon it, he will not damage his own case. Fancy a barrister getting anything out of Sir James that he does not wish to reveal! However, I do not think that he has anything to conceal. The chairman of the Committee is Mr. Cobbett. The other members are Mr. Crawford (City), the Marquis of Hartington, Lord Robert Montagu, and Colonel Pakenham. The two first are Liberals; the two last, Conservatives. Mr. Cobbett is a Liberal, but has the reputation, in political circles, of being "awkward." It would be a fine triumph for the Conservative party if "Old Jemmy" were to be unseated!

And so that strange compound of wit, wisdom, folly, liberality, and narrowness—Mr. Drummond—is dead. A more curiously-composite character than Mr. Drummond never lived. In theory he was a Tory; but he not infrequently preached the broadest Radicalism. In religion he was, theoretically, the highest of Churchmen; but in practice he was a Dissenter. The great horror of his life was Popery, and he himself was a Pope. He was a member of the English House of Commons, but he held to a Utopian system in which there was certainly no place for popular assemblies: for he believed in a theocracy. The House lost in him a speaker who often enlivened a dull debate, and sometimes said exceedingly good things; but, on the whole, for every good thing he said many foolish ones. Mr. Drummond affected to be a philosopher, and wished to be one; but all he succeeded in becoming was an oddity.

Being guided in most of my affairs by the recommendation of advertisements; having, when I married, bought my furniture at some especial shop; or purchased "Peter Parley's Annual" for my children; or put my embarrassments into the hands of some solicitor who ensures protection without imprisonment; seen somebody's pattern brooches before having my likeness taken; or saved half my coals, cured my smoky chimneys, had a plentiful supply of hot water and a warm bath always ready, by a patent kitchen; or, above all, been most indelicate in my investigations as to "Who's Griffiths?"—which I have not the slightest idea of, except that he appears to be somebody in the arson and burglary line—I have taken another piece of advice. A recommendation to "Go and see Mealey's Growing Plate" lured me, last week, to the other side of Oxford-street, facing the top of Bond-street. This most singular and wonderful phenomenon of the age was stated "to be covered with eruptions of the purest crystal, resembling pelicans, shrubs, flowers, &c., of the most exquisite beauty;" the attention of antiquarians and men of science being especially invited. I was introduced into a first-floor room, in the centre of which was a common china plate, mounted on a wooden frame like a globe-stand, under a glass shade, and protected by barriers from outward crowds, of which I was the only representative. On inspecting it I saw a variety of small crystals rising from its surface to about the height of three-eighths of an inch, exactly such as might be produced by allowing a saturated solution of some salt of soda, potash, or magnesia to evaporate. There was a smaller growth on the under part of the plate. The man has some rigmorale story about its having been in the family some centuries, but that it only began to "shoot" in autumn last, and of his having been offered a thousand pounds for it. He points to the pattern, and says "a gentleman here the other day" told him that it represented "the language-tree of India, which has a letter or character of the language on every leaf;" and that various hieroglyphics on the pattern contained its history, but no one could make them out. I did not find the process difficult at all. The hieroglyphics were Chinese delineations of a flight of birds; but of "the language-tree" I must confess I had never heard. In answer to my inquiries, he said that he never had the crystal examined by any approved professor of chemistry, as he thought if the public knew what they were they would not care about it. The exhibition is either a subject for an interesting research, or a mere sham; but it has not, either way, a sufficient backbone for a shilling exhibition. It is one of those sights which are seen in an instant, about which there is nothing to say; and then you look at the exhibitor, and he looks at you, and you are both anxious to get away from one another, but dare not move. The proprietor and his wife each lack

address and education to command the interest of a West-end class of visitors; and their notions of the plate and its physiology, its value, and the legends they have been told about it by people whose names they cannot recollect, are of little value in enhancing its popularity. Let it be put in the hands of Mr. Faraday, or some searching analytical chemist, and he will soon see whether it is really a singular freak of indestructible particles, or a mere reproduction of a crystalline salt from some imperceptible absorption, which may stop as suddenly as it began to "grow."

The volunteer movement is still in existence, and even making rapid progress, despite the thunders hurled against it on Friday week by Sir Robert Peel. The postprandial eloquence of the honourable Baronet was, undoubtedly, very amusing, though its tone must have been as offensive to hundreds in the House as it has been to thousands throughout the country, and the matter of the speech carried no weight of argument and teemed with absurdity. The translation of "in medio tutissimus ibis" was the one joke of the entire oration. The wit about shooting the Brompton cats, and "the inhuman massacre of the feline tribe," would have been very telling in an Astley's farce to the persevering few who remain after the scenes in the circle, but was certainly out of place in the English Senate. I see that roars of laughter followed the speaker's announcement that a particular corps was called the "Pimlico Fencibles;" but surely there is not so much absurdity or audacity in a body of volunteer riflemen choosing to christen themselves, even by so high-sounding an appellation, as in a man bearing the name of Robert Peel descending to vicious ribaldry and mountebankism! The volunteers have their fame entirely in their own hands. If they render themselves efficient, and are content to give up their spare time and money for the sake of enjoying capital exercise and acquiring a knowledge of drill and shooting, they will have accomplished their end and earned the respect of all their fellow-subjects; but if they go in for dress and parade they will merely render themselves contemptible, and afford opportunities for such "chaff" as that recently indulged in by the Tamworth Baronet. Apropos of this subject, I hear it is expected that the volunteer ball on the 7th of March will be very highly patronised, and will have far more than the average number of distinguished visitors.

The amateur performance of the Savage Club is fixed for the same night as the volunteer ball and banquet, which would seem unfortunate, though the fame of the amateurs is doubtless sufficient to fill the house. The first piece will be "The School for Scandal," in which Mr. Frank Talfourd will play Sir Peter Teazle; Mr. Crawford Wilson, Joseph Surface; and Mr. Byron, Charles Surface. The female characters will be professionally supported, Miss Sedgwick playing Lady Teazle, and Mrs. Weston Mrs. Candour. Messrs. Albert Smith, Hollingshead, E. Draper, Portch, the Brothers Brough, and other gentlemen associated with literature and art, will also appear, either in the comedy or in a new burlesque of "The Forty Thieves," which is to follow it.

The usual anomaly was carried out on Ash-Wednesday. Dramatic performances were tabooed at the theatres, but, *en revanche*, "Sam Collins" had a "monster concert" at the Marblebone, and all the music-halls were open.

Mr. Cooke's stud of Astley's horses was sold on Wednesday, realising about a thousand pounds. Mr. Baty will be the new manager of the amphitheatre.

The farewell season of the Christy Minstrels commences on Monday next, at the Polygraphic Hall.

Literature.

The Biglow Papers. By JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. Newly Edited, with a Preface, by the Author of "Tom Brown's School Days." Reprinted, with the Author's sanction, from the Fourth American Edition. Trübner and Co.

The fortunes of "The Biglow Papers" in this country have been curious. For many years they have been the delight of intelligent persons acquainted with them, and English publishers have been over and over again importuned to reprint them in vain, until now, when two "houses" have taken them in hand at the same time; and, most curious of all, their reception by the general public at last, well trumpeted as they have been, bears a poor proportion to their appreciation by the "select" class of readers, and partly justifies the hesitation of publishers to take them up before—a hesitation which the writer of these lines can speak to, he having himself at intervals since 1854 made ineffectual attempts to get them republished in London. Why, then, do "The Biglow Papers" not succeed as they "ought" to do? This question we will answer directly, as to the *vain* "why," but some stress must be laid, we think, upon the bad editing. Reserving our own views as to the sort of manipulation these wonderful poems really require from an English editor, we cannot omit to notice in the preface before us one or two hindrances to that general truthfulness of effect which is essential to success, though the want of it is seldom so distinctly traceable as in this case.

"Tom Brown's School Days" was a very good and very notable book, and was by no one more warmly welcomed than by ourselves. But the author is now, on the strength of that success, playing *la grosseille antique* with matters in which his judgment is unreliable. That he had the best personal authority for this bit of able editing makes the pity the greater; but so it is.

First, let us observe that his apologies for the quaint adaptations of scriptural phraseology which occur in "The Biglow Papers" are as irrelevant as they are unnecessary. The direct and obvious answer to any objection lies here—that the American mind is peculiar in this respect, and that the "feature" in question is dramatically proper. There is a blending of the serious and the funny which runs through American literature and American talk, and defies analysis. You find it in Mrs. Stowe. You find it in the graver poems of Lowell. You find it even in the chaste and quiet Longfellow. You find it in the sermons of Henry Ward Beecher. This "it," whatever it is, is that which makes the characteristic humour of one of their "camp-meetings," and is most mortifyingly difficult to define or to seize. It appears in "The Biglow Papers" simply as a national characteristic, except where Mr. Biglow burlesques the cant of the other side, and then, of course, a second explanation arises. The editor, however, goes out of his way to observe that we have had good precedents for this sort of thing in Luther, Latimer, and Rowland Hill (?)—and would anybody guess it?—that there is humorous writing in the Bible, specimens being referred to in both the Old and New Testament. In those specimens we ourselves have failed to discover the faintest tinge of the ludicrous in any shape whatever; and, indeed, the "humour" of Oriental writings in general is *mockery*, just as the Oriental idea of punishment is too often *torment*. Our editor must surely know that there is no such thing in all the Bible as the sort of dramatic humour exemplified by Mr. Biglow, in which phrases, themselves full of sacred and beautiful meaning, or allusions to such phrases, are employed to heighten the sense of moral incongruity in the reader. The fact is, no apology was necessary to those who were really capable of appreciating the Biglow fun. Or if, in one or two cases, Mr. Lowell has exceeded his proper license—as *perhaps* he has—the best thing was to say so, and make a clean breast of it at once. But here the excuses are worse than the offence by "long chaffe."

But this is not our "able editor's" ugliest mistake. "I am quite aware," he says, "that Mr. Lowell will be claimed as a champion by the peace party in this country"—certainly he will—"and certainly no keener things have been said against war in general than are to be found in this book. With our own peace-at-any-price party no one has less sympathy than I"—we have none—"and this leads me to urge on all English readers to bear in mind that 'The Biglow Papers' were written for a New England audience, and must be judged from a New England point of view." Surely they must; everything must be

judged from its own point of view. Then, after contrasting America and England, the editor proceeds:

Had Mr. Lowell been an Englishman, no one who knows his writings can believe for a moment that he would have swelled the cry or strengthened the hands of the *rain and mischievous clique* who, amongst us, have of late years raised the cry of peace when there is no peace.

Well, we do not like, for one thing, this calling of names in the words we have italicised. We do not believe Mr. Cobden is "vain and mischievous;" but, knowing Mr. Lowell's writings tolerably well, we are bold to say that, unless he is changed since he wrote "The Biglow Papers," he *would*, here or anywhere else, oppose war under any circumstances. He is distinctly, like Mr. Emerson and a large Boston "clique," an adherent of peace at any price, as he is an opponent of capital punishment for any offence (see, on the latter point, his sonnets apropos of Wordsworth's defence of the gibbet). The negative evidence for this is scattered all over his writings, and very curious it is to notice how carefully, when freedom, love of country, and such topics are in hand, the savage commonplaces are "severely left alone." Nor are we confined, for proof of our point, to such a casual expression as that where he says we must not "attempt the Future's portal with the Past's blood-rusted key;" though such intimations of Mr. Lowell's notorious "peace" opinions are always occurring. We can "shut up" the question by a very short *à fortiori* argument. Mr. Lowell has, in one of his poems—not in "The Biglow Papers"—a visionary meeting with Miles Standish, in which occurs the following passage:—

"We forefathers to such a rout!
No, by my faith in God's word!"
Half rose the ghost and half drew out
The ghost of his old broadsword,
Then thrust it slowly back again,
And said, with reverent gesture,
"No, Freedom, no! blood should not stain
The hem of thy white vesture."

Now, here is the argument—If the sword may not, according to Lowell, be drawn in the cause of freedom, then, *à fortiori*, in no cause whatever—i.e., not at all. And, if a Puritan soldier (after having "got the new knowledge" in heaven) may not fight, then, *à fortiori*, nobody may. The truth against the world! Is Mr. Lowell, or is he not, a member of the peace-at-any-price party? It is a party with which we have as little sympathy as any one can well have; but if Mr. Lowell belongs to it, or did so when he wrote these "Papers," let the fact be fairly admitted and then taken at its proper worth.

These editorial mishaps have, we suspect, had something to do with weakening the impression made by "The Biglow Papers" by destroying its unity. But, after all, the papers themselves have faults as fatal to general popularity as their merits are great. They are fragmentary and cumbrously annotated; the "trimmings" almost smother the joint itself. There are perpetual breaks in dramatic propriety, as in these passages—

Massachusetts, God forgive her, She's akneelin' with the rest, She, that ought to ha' clung for ever In her grand old eagle nest; She, that ought to stand so fearless While the wracks are round her hurled, Holdin' up a beacon peerless To the oppressed of all the world!	Clang the bells in every steeple, Call all true men to disown The traducers of our people, The enslavers of their own; Let our dear old Bay State proudly Put the trumpet to her mouth, Let her ring this message loudly In the ears of all the South.
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—which are Lowell Yankeeified, not Biglow. And, worse still, there is always present a fault which no man knows of better than Mr. Lowell himself—an extreme discursiveness and running after "rhythmical trinkets," which keep the reader on-and-off with the main thread of thought in a rather tedious way, a fault which runs through nearly all Mr. Lowell's poems, serious as well as humorous, and not least through his exquisite "Vision of Sir Launfal." Add to this an unavoidable prevalence of what is local and occasional in "The Biglow Papers," and one easily understands how it is that their reception here, when published in mass, does not square with that given to bright fragments by everybody, and to the whole by "select readers."

The prose matter contained in "The Biglow Papers" has not been noticed as much as it deserves. True, it is still more out of "keeping" than the poetry, the sober, Pope-and-Goldsmith-loving minister sometimes writing very clever burlesques, and sometimes saying wise things quite out of his scope; but, after all, it is capital. Very happy is the following bit of Carlylese, from a series of sham reviews:—

FROM THE WORLD-HARMONIC-ECCLIAN-ATTACHMENT.
To this soul also the *Necessity of Creating* somewhat has unveiled its awful front. If not O'Jipus, and Electras, and Alcestises, then in God's name birdofredum Sawins! These also shall get born into the world, and filch (if so need) a Zingali subsistence therein, these lank, omnivorous Yankees of his. He shall paint the Seen, since the Unseen will not sit to him. Yet in him also are Niblungen-lays, and Iliads, and Ulysses wanderings, and Divine Comedies—if only once he could come at them! Therein lies much, nay all; for what truly is this which we name *All*, but that which we do not possess! . . . Glimpses also are given us of an old father Ezekiel, not without paternal pride, as is the wont of such. A brown, parchment-hided old man of the geoponic or bucolic species, grey-eyed, we fancy, *queneed*, perhaps, with much weather-cunning and plentiful September-gale-memories, bidding fair in good time to become the Oldest Inhabitant. After such hasty apparition he vanishes, and is seen no more.

And full of practical wisdom is this about

VAGUE WRITING.
I remember that, when party-spirit once ran high among my people upon occasion of the choice of a new dean, I, having my preferences, yet not caring to openly to express them, made use of an innocent fraud to bring about that result which I deemed most desirable. My stratagem was no other than the throwing a copy of the "Complete Letter-writer" in the way of the candidate whom I wished to defeat. He caught the infection, and addressed a short note to his constituents, in which the opposite party detected so many and so grave improprieties (he had modeled it upon the letter of a young lady accepting a proposal of marriage), that he not only lost his election, but, falling under a suspicion of Sabellianism, and I know not what (the widow Endive assured me that he was a Parapimemon, to her certain knowledge), was forced to leave the town. Thus it is that the letter killeth.

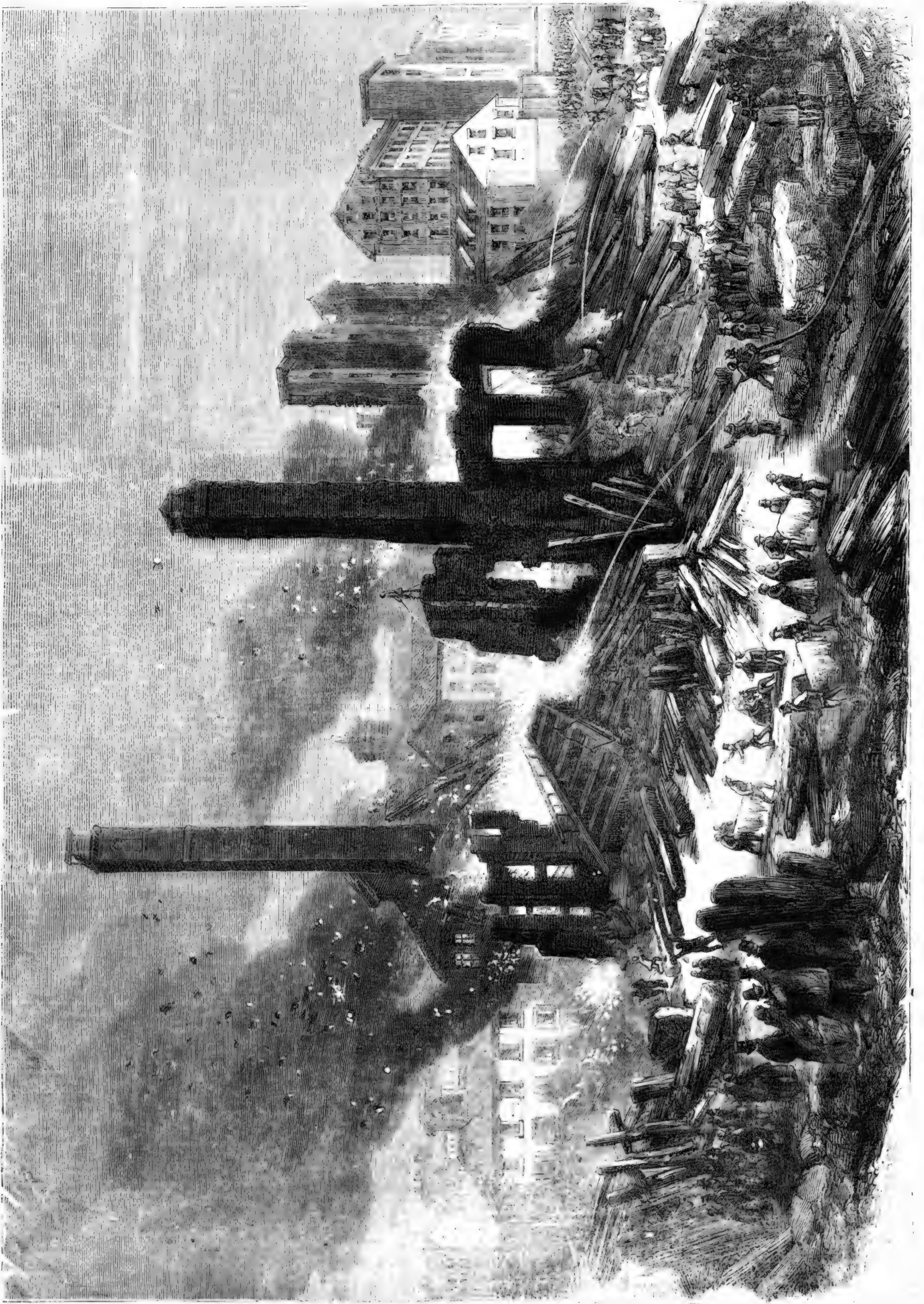
The object which candidates propose to themselves in writing is to convey no meaning at all. And here is a quite unsuspected pitfall into which they successively plunge headlong. For it is precisely in such cryptographies that mankind are prone to seek for and find a wonderful amount and variety of significance.

Some of the small epigrammatic titbits should be immortal—e.g., "The two faculties of speech and speechmaking are wholly diverse in their natures. By the first we make ourselves intelligible, by the last unintelligible, to our fellows." And this about

WILFUL BOYS.
We have all heard it said, often enough, that little boys must not play with fire; and yet, if the matches be taken away from us, and put out of reach upon the shelf, we must needs get into our little corner, and scowl, and stamp, and threaten the dire revenge of going to bed without our supper. The world shall stop till we get our dangerous plaything again. Dame Earth, meanwhile, who has more than enough household matters to mind, goes bustling hither and thither as a hiss or a sputter tells her that this or that kettle of hers is boiling over, and before bedtime we are glad to eat our porridge cold, and gulp down our dignity along with it.

Our space-limits would forbid our extracting any more, even if the metrical portions of the book had not been quoted to death in occasional splinters during the last seven years. All we can add is, buy the book, for it will always be pleasant and profitable reading. Mr. Lowell's humorous writing is the most healthy of the day, being entirely free from sentimentality and worldliness both. That is more than can be said for any living English humorist, and more than can be said for Mr. Lowell's countryman Dr. Holmes. Some opportunity may occur for bringing under the notice of our readers Mr. Lowell's serious poems, and, in the meanwhile, "we earnestly recommend them for perusal" (*style choisi*). Mr. Lowell has much more pith and power than either Bryant or Longfellow, and if he had a little more finish, and a little more steadiness, he would be much more "popular" here than he is.

"The Present Crisis." Poems. Routledge and Co.
"I call this a Fable for Critics. You think it's
More like a display of my rhythmical trinkets,"
says Mr. Lowell, in that fine essay in rhyme, quite conscious of his own weak point.



THE BURNING RUINS OF THE PEMBERTON MILLS, AT LAWRENCE, UNITED STATES.—FROM A SKETCH BY W. PHILIPPS.

FALL OF THE PEMBERTON MILLS AT ST. LAWRENCE.

In a previous Number of this Journal we gave a report of the fearful accident that occurred at St. Lawrence, Massachusetts, on the 10th of January. We now present our readers with a view of the scene taken after the fire had been extinguished. The coroner's jury, which has been for some time engaged in investigating the matter, gave its verdict on the 3rd inst.

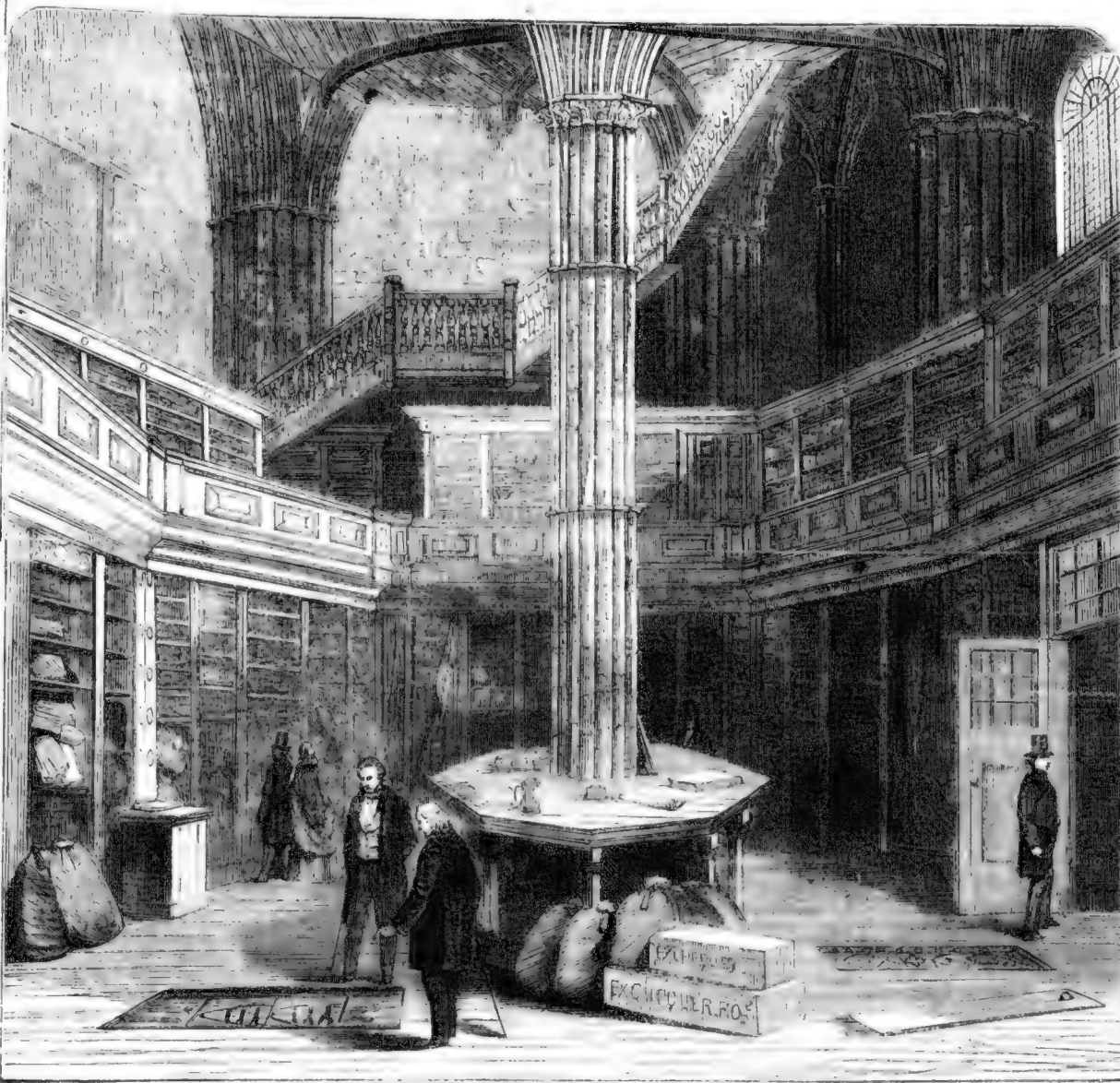
The weakness and insufficiency of the cast-iron shoring, the thinness of the brick walls, and the length of span from one support to another beneath the floor timbers, were stated to have been the causes of the terrible catastrophe. For the imperfections of the cast-iron pillars a Mr. Albert Fuller, contracting agent and foreman of the Eagle Iron-foundry, was found to be responsible. But the great weight of the structure, one Mr. Charles Bigelow. His lack of judgment in laying the timber and floorings, and the insufficient inspection to which he subjected the iron pillars and supports, render him in the eyes of the jury responsible for the calamity.

THE CHAPTER HOUSE OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

It will scarcely be credited that the remarkable interior shown in the Engraving was in former days one of the most beautiful in the country, rivaling in its fair proportions and decorations the famous Chapter Houses at York and Salisbury. In most of the important ecclesiastical structures of this country extraordinary pains have been taken by the architects in making the chapter houses rare specimens of design and workmanship. But by neglect, as well as by barbarous usage, this portion of Westminster Abbey has been allowed to fall into decay, and to be filled in the manner now shown. Fragments are, however, still remaining which give some idea of its original condition—as in the north side of the cloisters of the Abbey and the entrance to the Chapter House. Passing under here, we find an arched passage of the purest Gothic, leading to a lofty vestibule. Here is a great doorway elaborately adorned with figures and flowers. This part of the building is in excellent preservation. Passing into the now dimly-lighted interior by the aid of lantern lights, and creeping through openings in the wooden presses, portions of an arcade of fine design may be seen along the walls. The compartments are richly painted with subjects from the Revelations, &c. These ancient wall paintings are remarkable for their artistic merits, the heads being as fine as those in pictures of the Italian school a little before the days of Raphael. In parts the preservation of these works of old art is very good, and the accessory ornamentation in gilding and colours is brilliant. In other portions, where the stone is not suitable, the paint has peeled off, and the design has nearly disappeared. On raising the boards which form the present floor portions of the old encaustic pavement (which is perfect throughout, and is, probably, the finest of such ancient date which now remains in England) are visible. Here are cunning heraldic and other devices, finely coloured. The restoration of the pavement of the Temple Church was in a great measure derived from these examples. The graceful centre pillar, from which sprung the groined roof, also remains; but in other parts of this octagonal building terrible mischief has been done. The windows were originally, of large size, and similar in shape to the portion of tracery which may be still seen behind the staircase which leads to the gallery, &c. These have been, in some instances, removed, and the space filled up with brick-work.

The Chapter House was probably erected in the reign of Henry III. It did not, however, remain long in the service of the Church, for it is recorded that the Commons assembled here in 1377, and continued their sittings in it, at intervals, until the reign of Edward VI., when that King summoned this portion of the Parliament to St. Stephen's Chapel. This building has, therefore, great historical interest. It appears that in the reign of James I., if not sooner, the records of the King's Bench and Common Pleas were deposited in this place; and from that time until within the last few weeks the records have continued to increase.

It is said that much damage was done to the Chapter House in the time of the Civil Wars. Sir Christopher Wren has also been blamed for spoiling this once fine



THE CHAPTER HOUSE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY, FITTED FOR THE RECEPTION OF RECORDS.

building: he appears, however, to have been innocent of this charge. The old groined roof was standing in 1740. Remonstrances had been made to the Government, who were custodians of the place, in consequence of its dangerous condition, some time before. At the above date certain surveyors reported that it was necessary to pull the structure down and put up a new one. This report was, fortunately, not acted upon; and in 1744 upwards of £600 was expended on those repairs, which destroyed in a great measure the ancient appearance of the building.

Below the Chapter House there is a very curious crypt, which is reached by a small doorway near the entrance to the Abbey at Poets' Corner. In the centre stands a short pillar of large diameter, in which there is a curious hollow part, which has probably been used as a place of safety for precious property.

As has been stated, the most valuable of the records have been removed to the new office in Fetter-lane. Still, however, a number of documents remain, and thus the place is closed against the public.

JOAN OF ARC'S TOWER, COMPIEGNE.

ONE of the most interesting features in the forest of Compiègne is an old ruined tower, commonly known as Joan of Arc's Tower. The

legend attached to it is that the Maid of Orleans was here taken prisoner, by the English. This is not at all improbable, as Compiègne was the scene of many of Joan of Arc's exploits. We hear that it is the Emperor's intention to place a statue of the heroine on the ruined battlements, the figure to be copied from the famous statuette designed by the Princess Marie.

THE WHITWORTH GUN.

EXPERIMENTAL trials with Mr. Whitworth's breech-loading cannon give a success surpassing the greatest results which have ever been obtained even from the admirable guns of Sir W. Armstrong. Mr. Whitworth, with a projectile weighing only 3lb., has gained a range of over five miles and a half.

As the guns are all alike in every respect but proportions of size, a description of one will suffice.

The bore is hexagonal in section, the degree of twist depending on the diameter of the bore, and is always sufficiently rapid to compensate for any length of shot which may be fired, on the principle established by Mr. Whitworth, that unsteadiness in long projectiles may be counteracted by rapidity of rotation. The piece may be said to consist of a tube rifled throughout from muzzle to breech; the breech is closed, when the gun is loaded, by a cap, in shape something like the cap of a telescope. One great advantage of this plan of construction is that it enables the whole length of the barrel to be rifled, and thus every inch of it becomes effective as a gun, which is not the case when a chamber or other breech-loading apparatus, as in Armstrong's for instance, occupies the breech of the piece.

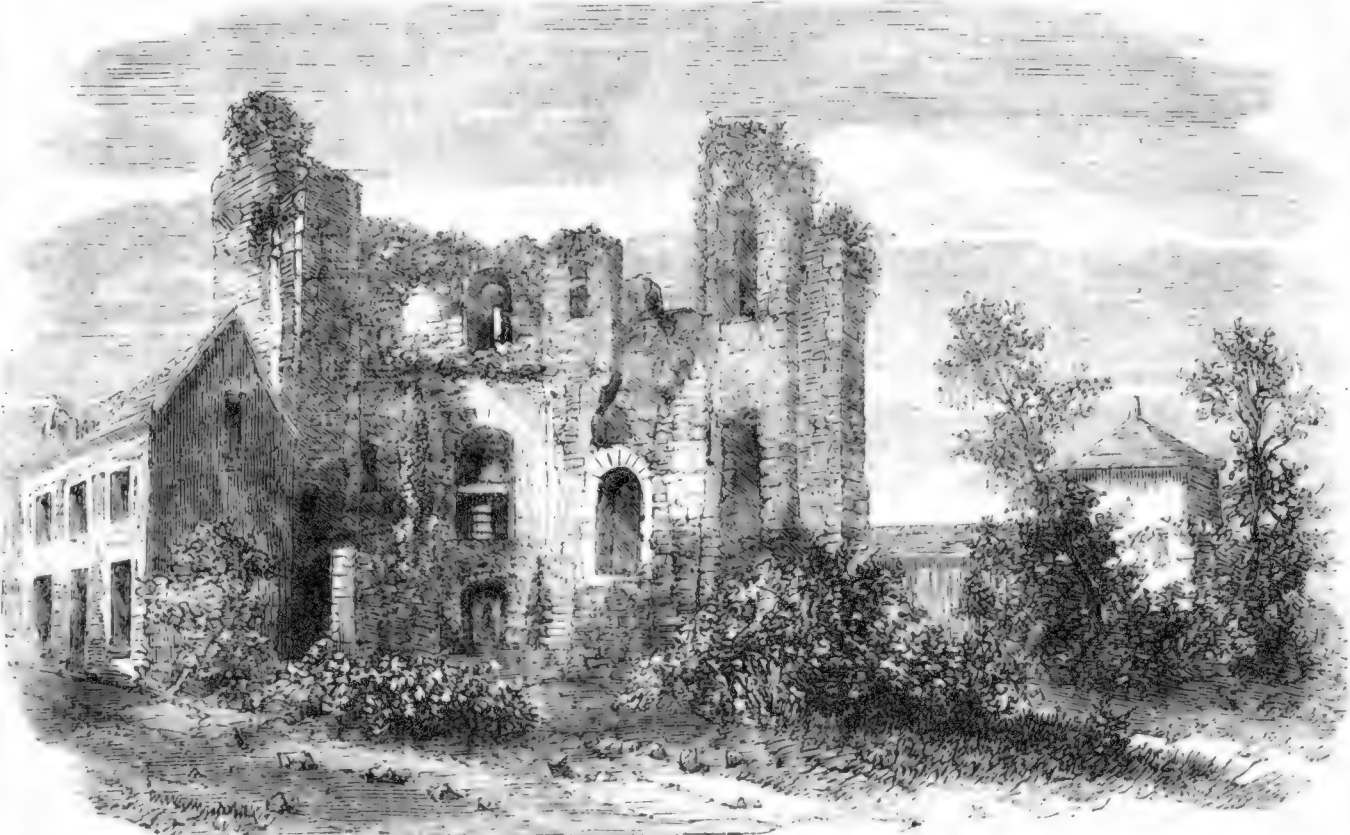
Supposing the gun to have been fired, a description of the operation of loading and discharging will explain the construction and action of the breech-loading apparatus:—By turning a handle fitted on the cap, the latter is unscrewed from the breech and turned back, leaving

the tube open from end to end. The projectile is then placed in the gun, the powder-cartridge is pushed in behind it, the breech-cap is shut like a door into its place, and, while the hinge supports it in a proper position, three turns of the handle screw it on to the end of the piece. It is, in fact, a breech on a hinged hoop, which shuts and then screws on. The touchhole is fixed in the centre of the breech-cap at the back. The gun is, therefore, fired by the ordinary friction-tube. All Whitworth's guns are made of homogeneous iron, the larger guns, such as 80-pounders, being strengthened by wrought-iron hoops forced on by hydraulic pressure. The projectiles are uncoated, hard metal bolts, made of various shapes, according to the purposes for which they are required, and so shaped that their bearing surfaces fit the interior of the barrel. Tubular projectiles are employed for firing through soft substances and into masonry, but for piercing thick wrought-iron plates fronted projectiles are used. Where length of range is important the fore part of the projectile is made to taper slightly, the front being rounded off, and the rear part is made nearly to correspond with the fore with regard to the degree of taper, but its end is flattened, and sometimes slightly hollowed out. The powder is contained in cases or cartridges made of tin-plate, which are shaped to fit the rifled interior of the barrel. The base of the powder-cartridge is pierced centrally, and its orifice corresponds to the touchhole made in the breech-cap, so

that the flash from the fuse reaches the powder. The front of the cartridge is closed with a wad or cake of lubricating substance. This wad forms another important feature in the Whitworth system, as it effectively distributes the lubricating substance over the interior surface of the gun, and obviates all necessity of spenging out the barrel.

So much for the general principles of the gun. It now remains to show the results which were achieved on the trial which was made at Southport.

The guns were placed on the shore at a place known as Ainsdale Point. Thence there is a clear and practicable range of 10,000 yards (or nearly six miles) south towards Formby, and of this distance about 7000 yards have been measured, each 100 being marked by a small stake. The first experiment was made with an 80-pounder. The object was to show the revolving motion given to the projectile by the increase in the pitch or turn of the rifling. For this purpose the gun was loaded with only eight ounces of powder and one long conical shot of ninety-



JOAN OF ARC'S TOWER AT COMPIEGNE.

pound weight. With any other cannon such an insignificant explosive charge would have failed to move the long mass of iron placed over it. With the Whitworth gun, however, the ponderous shot was expelled at a low velocity with a peculiar roaring hum, which was due to the revolution on its own axis as it ploughed through the air, falling at a distance of about 700 yards from the spot. Firing with a 12-pounder field-gun was then commenced; the object being not so much to test the range as to show the accuracy of the fire. A six-foot target, with a two-foot bullseye, was hoisted at 1000 yards. Two shots were allowed to lay the gun and find the range, the second of which passed between the target and the pole which held it. Of the eight which were then fired all went through the target within a space of four feet square, and two through the bullseye, which, from the place where the gun was fired, looked scarcely bigger than a man's hand. In this result there was nothing astonishing to those who have seen the Armstrong fired, or even the very best practice made now and then with smooth-bored field artillery. The charge was 28 ounces of powder, the service charge for an ordinary gun of the same calibre being 56 ounces. With the 28 ounces, however, the force and velocity of the shot seemed enormous; the flight was low, the ricochet very great, and nearly always to the right, in the direction of the pitch of the rifling. One shot, after passing through the target, first grazed the sand at 2200 yards, then again at 3000, after which it went on ricocheting along the shore, touching it every 200 or 300 yards, until it buried itself 5600 yards from the place where it was discharged. The elevation of the gun was $1^{\circ} 25'$, at which the recoil was very little, the explosion much less than that of an ordinary field-piece, and the noise occasioned by the flight of the shot comparatively very slight. One man served the gun with the utmost ease, withdrawing with screw nippers the tin cartridge-case from the breech after each shot. No sponging or cleaning of any kind took place; and though, of course, the smut of the powder was in the barrel, the gun was, to all practical intents and purposes, as clean after the firing was over as when it first commenced. There was no heating worthy of notice, either at the breech or muzzle.

A light 3-pounder was run forward by two men, and practice was commenced with ten degrees elevation, at 4000 yards, the charge being only seven ounces and a half of powder. The working features of the gun were the same as we have noticed in the 12 pounder, except that one man worked the gun with much greater ease, firing it, without the least attempt at hurry, four times in less than four minutes. The first shot fired entered the sand at 4171 yards distance, and only six yards to the left of the line; the second struck at 4179 yards, at only four yards to the left; the third at 4221 yards, and five yards to the left; and the fourth at 4122 yards, at two yards from the line. The elevation was then altered to twenty degrees, the same charge of seven ounces and a half being continued for the range of posts from 6000 to 7000 yards distant. The first shot at this tremendous range struck the sand at 6760 yards, and only five yards to the left of the true line. The second struck at 6784, and twelve yards from the true line in the same direction; the third at 6720, sixteen yards out of the line. This deviation to the left was contrary to the usual deviation of the gun, and arose from a rather strong wind which had set in from the sea. The gun was therefore laid more to the right, and threw a fourth shot 6910 yards distance, and only two yards to the left of the true line. When the gun was raised to thirty-five degrees, the practice was really extraordinary. The first shot touched the ground at 9685 yards distance (more than 54 miles), and 34 yards to the right of the true line. The second lodged in the sand (of course without ricocheting) at 9645 yards, and 31 to the right of the mark; the third at 9611 yards, and 89 yards to the right of the mark; the fourth fell at 9503 yards, and 72 yards to the right; and the fifth and last at 9453 yards, and only 55 to the right. The difference between the shot which fell nearest and that which was widest was only 57 yards, and this at a range of more than five miles and a quarter. The constant deviation to the right arose from those working the gun allowing too much for the influence of the wind, which came in gusts from the left, or rather crossing diagonally the line of flight of the projectile. As a matter of course, at such an immense distance there are no means at Southport of signaling to the gun in charge of the piece whether the shots at the five-mile-and-a-half range fall either to the right or left of the true line, and the gun, once laid, is not, therefore, altered till another degree of elevation is chosen for nearer practice. One shot was next fired at an elevation of 33 degrees, and attained a range of 9547 yards, falling 57 yards to the right of the mark. Another trial was at an elevation of 20 degrees, and at this angle the most wonderful practice, both as regards range and accuracy, which has yet been witnessed with any artillery in the world, was effected. The gun was laid by one of Mr. Whitworth's people, who, it must be remembered, are ordinary mechanics, and before these experiments never laid or loaded a gun in their lives. The first shot, fired with eight ounces of powder, fell at a distance of more than four miles (7073 yards), and only four yards to the right of the true line of fire. The second fell at 6985 yards, and four yards and a half to the right of the true line. The third dropped at 6960 yards, four yards and a half to the right of the mark, and the fourth, and last, at 6822 yards, but twenty-seven yards right of the line of fire. The unusual degree of divergence in the last shot, we were informed, was purely accidental, and caused by a slight inadvertence in loading the gun, which it is supposed shifted the stand. But, even counting this as a fair shot, the greatest amount of divergence from the true line at a range of 7000 yards is only twenty-two yards and a half to the right—a deviation so slight as to appear almost incredible. With a regiment in square at such a distance, or even among a cavalry out-picket of a dozen mounted men, nearly every shot would have told, as the line of flight is low beyond all comparison with other projectiles.

The next trial was with the 80-pounder:—The piece was loaded at five degrees elevation, with 12lb. of powder, with which charge it threw a 90lb. projectile, with a fearful roar, a distance of 2550 yards, when it ricocheted at right angles, and buried itself in the sea at an immense distance. A second shot, with the same charge, first grazed the sand 2620 yards distant from the gun, and only two to the right of the true line. From this point it glanced upwards, but continued a straight course onward, alighting in the sand at a distance of over 6000 yards from the gun. Had this piece been mounted so as to permit of its being fired at a high degree of elevation, it was thought it would have thrown its ponderous shot a distance of 8000 or 10,000 yards.

Before this paper reaches the reader's hands some experiments with the 80-pounder at a high elevation will have been made; the results of which we must record next week.

The 3-pounder, which threw its shot five miles and a half, weighs only 208 pounds. At the first glance, it is difficult to realise the fact that this gun, consisting of a long, thin tube, like a telescope on wheels, and only weighing 208 pounds, can really be so formidable a weapon as to be capable, with a charge of powder not very much greater than is used in a large duck gun, of dealing almost certain death at a distance of five miles. As compared with the bluff, thick, flat-muzzled service-gun of a year ago, both Armstrong's and Whitworth's guns seem almost to be animated by an instinct or intelligence of their own; and nothing would more forcibly illustrate the triumph of mind over matter than to see the cumbersome mass of iron now called a 68-pounder placed side by side with a Whitworth 3-pounder tube, capable of destroying its ponderous antagonist at a distance of 10,000 yards.

Mr. Sidney Herbert, in the House of Commons the other day, spoke of Whitworth's gun in comparison with that of Sir W. Armstrong. He said:—

We are also anxious to be able to issue Armstrong guns adapted for the purposes of the Navy, and we hope soon to be able to place a considerable number on board of Her Majesty's ships. The last gun made by Sir W. Armstrong, and sent to be tried, was a 12-pounder. The following was the result:—Forty consecutive rounds were fired from the new 12-pounder field-gun of 8 cwt., with the minimum charge of 1lb. 8oz. of slow powder. The experiment shows that we have been wrong for some time in using powder of so quick a detonating nature for artillery practice, and especially for rifled cannon, which require weaker and slower powder than that suited to other arms. At seven degrees of elevation, in five rounds, the range was from 2465 to 2495 yards, the difference in the range being 60 yards, and the

greatest difference in width three yards. Then at eight degrees of elevation the range reached 2797 yards, with 60 yards of difference between the five shots, and only one yard of difference in the width. Again, at nine degrees of elevation the range comes up to 3000 yards and upwards, with 55 yards difference between the five shots, and three yards as the greatest difference in the width. In point of fact, almost all of these shots but three or four would have struck within a nine-foot vertical target. The rapidity and accuracy with which small objects are hit at a great distance in the practice made at Shoeburyness is something marvellous. We have to-day taken an account in the newspapers of the success of a gun in which I have long taken a great interest, and with respect to which I have been in constant communication with Mr. Whitworth. The effect of that gun seems excellent. People may be much excited if they see it surpass Sir W. Armstrong's weapon. It has not, in fact, yet surpassed Sir W. Armstrong's gun, which may shoot a little short. But recollect that Sir W. Armstrong has not yet made a gun with a view to the special object of range. He has always made shell guns, and a very great range is got by a very small bore. Sir W. Armstrong has never yet tried firing at an enormous distance alone, but has sought to send a shell that will do the greatest destruction to the enemy; and he observed to me, a few days ago, speaking of the Whitworth gun, "That gun will no doubt beat mine in range if it is made for range; but I will make one for range also, and you will then see what I shall do with Mr. Whitworth's." And this is perfectly fair (Hear, hear). But we have this assurance, that Sir W. Armstrong's gun has now been tested for a long time; we know its durability. There is one of his guns now at Shoeburyness that the experiments were first made with. Some guns have burst after two hundred rounds have been fired with them; but this gun has fired more than two thousand rounds; and if you put your finger to the rifling you will find it just as perfect as when it left the factory (Hear, hear). Then you have the test of lightness and durability. The durability of the Whitworth gun has, of course, yet to be proved.

DISASTROUS RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

A VERY serious accident occurred on Monday evening, at the Tottenham station of the Eastern Counties Railway, to the fast train from Cambridge. This train, consisting of first and second class carriages, well filled, started at seven o'clock. As it neared Tottenham station, at a speed of thirty-five to forty miles an hour, it began to oscillate in a peculiar manner; and almost immediately a loud crash was heard, followed by shrieks and groans. As soon as the train had come to a standstill the uninjured passengers rushed from their carriages—to behold a shocking scene. Engine, tender, and some of the carriages were heaped upon each other, while piteous groans emanated from the mass of ruins, and the steam from the engine enveloped everything in a dense mist. Of course, as soon as possible, every assistance was rendered, and the dead and wounded were taken from the wreck. This occupied a long period, for in some cases the carriages had to be broken into fragments before the desired object could be accomplished. Several of the injured were conveyed into the waiting-rooms at the station, while others were placed upon ladders, boards, &c., and carried to the neighbouring taverns. The engine-driver, a middle-aged man named Rowell, was dug from the ruins terribly scalded and otherwise injured; he died the next night. The fireman, a young man, was smashed to pieces. Officers from Shoreditch soon arrived, and the cause of the accident was then investigated. It appeared that from some cause the tire of one of the engine wheels came off. The engine then began to roll about, left the rails, and was beginning apparently to right itself, when it caught the edge of the brick platform, ran up, and then descended, and ultimately turned over with great violence. Fortunately the shock broke the coupling-iron of the third vehicle, and left the remainder of the train behind. These carriages, about eight in number, never left the rails, or the loss of life must have been much greater.

The following is the list of "casualties":—Killed—Mr. Satchell, of Fenchurch-street; Mr. Stokes, miller, Saffron Walden; William Rowell, engine-driver; George Cornwall, fireman. The injured are—Messrs. Manser, Hodgeson (two brothers); Mr. Bean, Burnt Mill; Mr. Garrod, Roydon; Mr. Taylor, Saffron Walden; Mr. Empson, Saffron Walden; Professor Elliott, of King's College; and a Mr. Caswell.

About one o'clock on Monday morning the night up-mail train from Edinburgh to London came into collision with a train of empty coal-waggons at the junction with the Springs Branch Colliery Railway, about two miles from Wigan. The result was the total destruction of several coal-waggons, the disabling and partial destruction of the engine belonging to the mail train, much damage to several carriages, and the serious injury of three persons in the train, and one of the company's servants at the junction.

MYSTERIES OF THE WINE TRADE.

FIVE or six years ago a phenomenon occurred in the vaults of the London Dock Company which, in what are termed "ages of faith," would probably have resulted in canonization and pilgrimage. Two and twenty casks of Italian and Spanish wine deposited in the aforesaid cellars underwent a miraculous transformation. The casks were there, and the wine was there, but the liquor, instead of remaining in its original substance, was found, when tasted, to have turned into most excellent port. The event made a noise in the world. Nothing like it, in fact, had ever been known, save in the dramatised adventures of "Box and Cox." The former of these gentlemen, as everybody recollects, discovers that a piece of "streaky York" which he had left upon the gridiron had been converted during his momentary absence into a fine Yarmouth bloater, and is naturally bewildered at so inexplicable a marvel. However, as our modern men of business are notoriously unimaginative, the London Dock miracle underwent some severe handling, though not so severe but that the wonder could be repeated over again.

In Savage-gardens, Tower-hill, resides a mercantile firm known for upwards of a century in the metropolitan wine trade. Messrs. Morgan, the present representatives of the house, had deposited in the same mysterious "east vault" of the London Docks a number of pipes of port, shipped to this country at various intervals from October, 1853, to July, 1855, and in due course turned their attention to these stores with a view to business. Again, however, as in the former precedent, the wine was found to have changed its nature, but, unhappily, for the worse instead of the better. It was no longer the wine which had been imported. It was of inferior taste and quality; and, what was stranger still, had gone through most unnatural developments. As it had been often tapped, tasted, and drawn off for samples, it was rather in accordance with the fitness of things that it should have diminished in volume, whereas it showed no reduction whatever. It should also, while standing on the lees, have acquired a "tawny" hue, whereas it appeared actually darker than before, and had gained colour, instead of losing it. So uncommon an event astonished the proprietors, who, incredulous and obstinate of heart, brought an action against the dock company, and endeavored to make them responsible for a transformation which, in their opinion, nature could never have caused. The case was tried a few days since.

Unluckily, the elucidation of the truth was by no means complete. The plaintiffs produced a reasonably good case as far as facts were concerned. They procured from Oporto samples of the genuine article as originally exported, and it was formally testified by professional adepts that wine of that character could not, or should not, have passed by any natural stages into wine of the character actually found in the pipes. They also ventured on suggesting an explanation of the wonder, which was, that their casks had been tapped, and that the place of the wine abstracted had been supplied by the introduction of an inferior article. In aid of these suggestions they produced evidence touching a certain "crane and can" trick, alleged to be common in the vaults, whereby pipes of wine, after being reduced, might be replenished at libitum, and the Court was treated to some amusing stories of bungling practice in this line. A vat of sherry had been filled up with water; a cask of muscatel with sherry; and one man, in bringing up a sherry butt to its proper gauge, was actually on the point of completing the job with port, until he was stopped by a more experienced practitioner.

All this, however, failed to touch the defendants or establish their

liability to make good the damage. If the wine had suffered injury it did not follow that the deterioration was owing to their default, and, if some of the practices described had once been known, it was not proved that they had subsisted since the investigation and clearance effected after the original phenomenon in December, 1851. Officers of every denomination in the company's employ repudiated all knowledge of the "crane and can" operation, and affirmed, also, with remarkable unanimity, that none of the alleged malpractices could prevail under so vigilant and exemplary a system of protection as the Dock Company maintained. They proceeded also in their turn to explanations of the case, which were, of course, more consistent with the reputation of the company. They urged that the plaintiffs had not gone well to work with their wines, which had consequently suffered from want of judicious treatment. They ought, considering the imperfections of the vintage, to have been "racked" or "branded," whereas these desirable operations were omitted. Even the increased depth of colour, too, perceived in these wines was shown by depositions to be no impossible occurrence; but the strangest disclosure of all remains still to be recorded. Custom House officers were put into the witness-box, who distinctly affirmed that casks of wine, though "sampled and tasted," or, in other words, tapped and drained of a portion of their contents, had been found long afterwards, to their certain knowledge, just as full as ever. By what process of reproduction or self-supply this most remarkable phenomenon was effected we are left to guess, but we must say that it is a thousand pities it never occurs in the decanter.

As might be expected with such a conflict of testimony, the case came to no termination except that of stoppage by common consent. Court and counsel were puzzled together, and so the matter was left as it stood, with handsome remarks on both sides. In point of fact, there was no solid ground to proceed upon. In the "Osborn fraud," as the first case is termed, it was clear that malpractice must have occurred; for, where indifferent Italian wine had been turned into excellent Portuguese wine, not even those most conversant with the wonders of the trade could describe such an event as in the possible course of nature. Here, however, the article had not undergone so essential a change as to require a similar explanation. It had gone wrong, no doubt, and perhaps ought not to have done so; but there was nothing to prove that the deterioration might not have ensued from ordinary causes, especially in the case of so exceptional a vintage. The Dock Company did not deny that in the Osborn case the inferior wine had been drawn off from the casks, and the superior wine substituted, by mortal hands; but they declared that in consequence of that exposure they had taken such measures as effectually to prevent a recurrence of the fraud. Inasmuch, therefore, as there was good evidence of superintendence on the part of the company, and no actual proof of extrinsic injury to the wine, the case ended without a decision.—*Times*.

LAW AND CRIME.

IT is the misfortune, no doubt inevitable, of the highly-respectable body of gentlemen who constitute what is termed "the sporting world" that whenever the inner life of that most interesting community happens to be opened to the public there is usually such a display of shabby, shallow, forlorn, helpless knavery as cannot by any possibility be inspected under other circumstances. Indeed, if one were to judge the sporting world by its indications, one might imagine that the members thereof lived by preying upon each other, and found but little profit therein. The purification of the sporting world was, however, to have commenced in December last. A Mr. Barry, who had served as Captain in the Mexican army, and had also served (in England) a period of imprisonment on a charge of defrauding a merchant of a large sum at cards, was one of the chief promoters of a company called "The New Turf Purification Association." Its object, as Mr. Barry states, was "to give the name, description, clothes, connection, and photographs of persons obtaining money in the ring by falsely representing themselves as betting-men." We quote this definition because to the non-sportive mind it may not tend much to enlightenment. Its tenor suggests that certain persons, not betting-men, walk into some kind of a ring, receive large sums of money for stating a particular falsehood, and then walk out again, leaving their clothes and photographs for the benefit of the association above named. This custom, it appears, is considered as reprehensible by other members of the sporting world, especially by "Captain" Barry. The Captain, being unable singlehanded to carry out the details of his plan, advertised in the journals offering a gentlemanly occupation to a gentleman having £300 to invest, also promising £200 per annum to any retired officer or gentleman who would be willing to invest £300. Captain Cockburn, late of the 60th Rifles, is to be the fortunate individual, selected from several qualified applicants for the appointment. The amount of good effected by means of the association might have been incalculable but for an unfortunate circumstance, which cast a slur upon its reputation at the outset. The *Sporting Life*—a weekly paper admired by the peculiar class to which we have referred—attacked the association and its promoters, Messrs. Newton and Barry, in an article containing the following passages:

The antecedents of Messrs. Newton and Barry are notorious. Mr. Newton, we are led to believe, received twelve months' imprisonment for a savage assault at Benbulbin Spa. Barry, alias Barry, is notorious for Brown's Patent Parchment Company, and was once accused of arson, his premises having been destroyed under suspicious circumstances, &c., &c. Barry offered, recently, to pay back liabilities "as soon as he caught a secretary, or a retired officer, or some subscriptions to the new Turf Association dropped in."

"Captain" Barry hereupon commenced an action for defamation against the proprietor of the *Sporting Life*. The cause was tried in the Queen's Bench, and the Captain underwent an examination as witness for himself. From his evidence it appears that certain members of the sporting world occasionally advertise anonymously, requesting others of the fraternity to send them sovereigns, promising, if a certain horse should happen to win a certain race, to return the sovereigns with any increment which may have been gained by laying wagers with the same. The other members, being of weak mind, and confiding though sportive dispositions, send sovereigns, as required. The advertisers take the money and spend it, troubling themselves no further in the matter. Their correspondents then give way to fruitless lamentation. This was one of the matters which the association was to repress. In March last a fire happened at Captain Barry's. The Captain was out, and the house was unoccupied save by a valuable parrot. The Captain rushed into the flames to save the bird, but warned the firemen that there was a half-pound of gunpowder up stairs, which might explode. The property was insured for £400, and Mr. Barry received £365. Plaintiff admitted having been convicted at the Old Bailey and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for cheating at cards. The judgment was subsequently set aside by a writ of error. He had lately been manager and partner in Brown's Parchment Company, and was paid £500 when he retired. He passed the Insolvent Court in 1856, and was remanded for eleven months for fraudulently contracting debts. He was, however, discharged after two days by the detaining creditor. A superintendent of police was called, and attributed the fire on plaintiff's premises to accident. Captain Cockburn deposed to being the secretary of the association, though he had not advanced the £300, not having it to advance. The defendant called the editor of the *Sporting Life*, who testified to having been requested by several gentlemen to denounce the association as a swindle. A Mr. Whitmore swore that plaintiff, being in his debt, promised payment as soon as he could get a secretary with some money; also that Lieutenant B., of a cavalry regiment, was a very good "wire," a term explained to mean one skilful at catching flats and men with money. Other evidence showed that persons were stopped from removing goods from the fire by an alarm that there was powder in the house, that the day before the fire the plaintiff sent two or three boxes to the railway station to be kept till called for, and two others on the morning of the fire; also that there were rumours in respect of the fire very black against plaintiff; and that plaintiff used to accept bills as Brown's Patent Parchment Company. The jury ultimately returned a verdict for the defendant.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1860.

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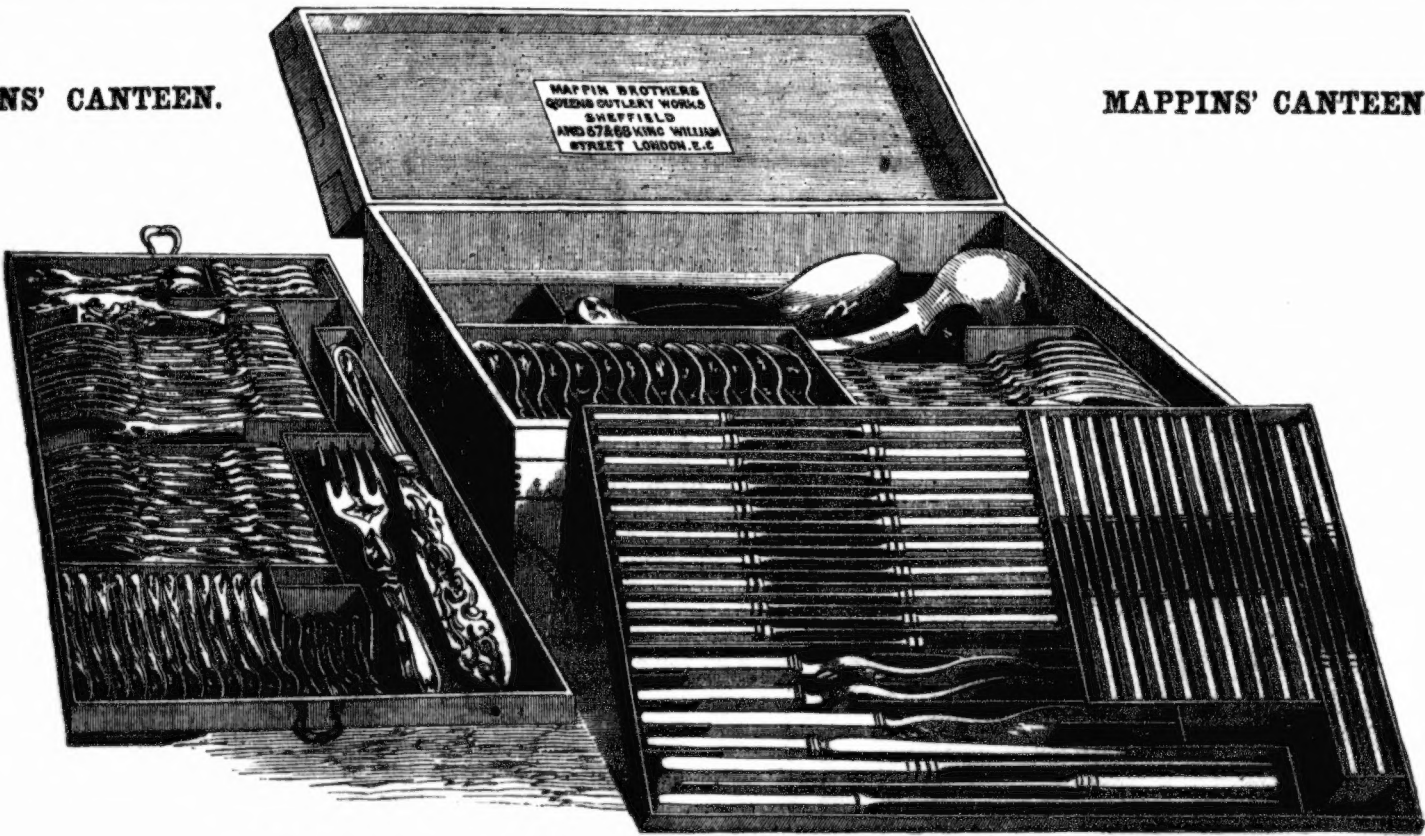
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